

Spadolini: Israel will continue talks

TEL AVIV (R) — Italian Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini said Friday he did not believe Israel would carry out its threat to break off troop withdrawal talks with Lebanon. "I have the impression that Prime Minister Shimon Peres has decided to continue to fight for success through negotiations. He repeatedly referred to the need for patience, though he said time was running short," Mr. Spadolini, here on a five-day official visit, told a news conference. Israel said last week it would consider breaking off the talks on ending its 30-month-old occupation of South Lebanon unless Beirut agreed to an expanded role for United Nations forces. The talks, held in the Lebanese border village of Naqoura, are due to resume on Jan. 7. Mr. Spadolini met Mr. Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir Friday and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin Thursday. Italy affirms commitment to UNIFIL, page 2

Jordan Times

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Crockett: U.S. must talk to PLO

RIYADH (R) — A U.S. congressman was Friday quoted as saying he believed the Palestinian problem could only be solved if Washington agreed to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). George Crockett, Democratic representative for Michigan, told the Saudi Arabian paper Ash Sharq Al Awsat he would invite the PLO representative at the United Nations, Zuhdi Terzi, to explain the PLO's position to Congress when it reconvenes. "I don't believe there will be any progress towards solving the Palestinian problem unless the United States is ready to talk to the PLO and listen to its views," Mr. Crockett was quoted as saying. Washington refuses to deal with the PLO unless it recognises Israel, founded 36 years ago on the territory of Palestine.

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Summit reportedly set for early 1985

AMMAN (J.T.) — Moroccan diplomatic sources said in Rabat Friday that tentative dates have been set for convening an Arab summit conference in Riyadh, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. The sources said the summit could be held in late January or early February in the Saudi Arabian capital. According to the sources, King Hassan of Morocco has exerted great efforts through contacts with Arab leaders to convene the summit and had convinced many leaders of the need to hold this summit.

Lebanese resistance claims 71 attacks

BEIRUT (R) — Beirut newspapers Friday published a communiqué from the Lebanese National Resistance Front saying it had carried out 71 attacks on Israeli troops in South Lebanon and their local militia allies between Nov. 24 and Dec. 22. The front, an umbrella term for various resistance forces operating in the Israeli-occupied south, said it killed or wounded 33 Israeli soldiers in 34 attacks. It inflicted 34 casualties in 37 attacks on the pro-Israeli "South Lebanon Army" and "National Guard" militias and other Israeli agents, it said.

UNRWA axes jobs

VIENNA (R) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees said Thursday it will have to abolish 38 jobs and defer pay rises to 12,000 field staff to help tackle a serious cash shortage. The move is part of UNRWA's emergency measures to bridge its 1985 cash gap, caused by a shortage of donations, between an expected 1985 income of about \$160 million and expenditure of \$225 million. Most of the 38 jobs will be scrapped in Vienna where the agency is based.

Minister quits over Indian gas disaster

BHOPAL, India (R) — A minister in India's Madhya Pradesh state government resigned Friday after accepting moral responsibility for the poison gas disaster which killed 2,500 people. An official spokesman told Reuters the resignation of Labour Minister Shyam Sunder Patidar had been accepted by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Arjun Singh. Mr. Patidar accepted moral responsibility for the gas leak from a Union Carbide factory in the state capital of Bhopal on Dec. 3, the spokesman said.

Israel expels Kach member to U.S.

TEL AVIV (R) — A member of the extremist Kach Party, convicted of shooting at an Arab vehicle, has been expelled from Israel after serving 18 months of his three-year prison sentence, officials said Friday. Twenty-one-year-old Israel Fuchs, a U.S. citizen, was found guilty of firing at an Arab car outside Jerusalem in mid-1983. No-one was injured in the attack.

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Hussein to visit Moscow in first half of 1985

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A planned visit to Moscow by His Majesty King Hussein is expected to take place in the first half of the new year, but no firm date has been set yet, authoritative sources said Friday.

The King's visit to the Soviet Union was expected to take place late this year, but it is now set for sometime in the first half of 1985, most probably in a few months, the sources told the Jordan Times. The sources ruled out describing the development as a "postponement" of the King's visit to the Soviet Union. "A date for King Hussein's trip to Moscow was never officially set," the sources said. "So the new date cannot be said to be a postponement," they added.

The Jordan Times has learnt that the King received Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Rafiq Nishanov last week and received from him a verbal message from the Soviet leadership dealing with the current situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations. Mr. Nishanov had just returned from Moscow when he met with the King. No more details on the contents of the message were immediately known.

Over the last year the King has repeatedly called for the participation of the Soviet Union along with the United States in an international conference which Jordan considers to be the best framework of a negotiated settlement for Palestinian question.

A senior Eastern diplomatic source in Amman said that the King's call for Soviet participation "was well received and highly appreciated in Moscow." The source, however, ruled any kind of link between the timing of the King's visit and any future political moves in the area.

Moscow is keen to reach an understanding with Amman on the approach to solve the Palestinian problem, the source said, and there will be extensive discussions by the Jordanian and Soviet leaderships on this specific point.

"Although King Hussein's talks in the Kremlin will no doubt be inextricably linked to Middle East peace moves, we see no reason to tie the visit with any particular political move in the area," the source said. "Definitely the timing has no relation with other developments

and moves," the source stressed. The authoritative sources described the state of Jordanian-Soviet relations as "excellent" and expected the King's visit to Moscow to strengthen existing cooperation between the two countries and open new doors for future cooperation. "Everything is going so well in every aspect of bilateral cooperation, and the King's visit to Moscow will surely crown this cooperation," the sources said. "Both sides are totally agreed on the need to develop ties between them, but not at the expense of anybody or any state. Jordan and the Soviet Union are clear on this, and the King's state visit to the Soviet Union will take place in this context."

The sources strongly dismissed suggestions, however, that the strained relations between Jordan and Syria, which maintains strong ties with the Soviet Union, will have any effect on the King's expected visit. "It is true that some Arab countries may well be opposed to the King going to the Soviet Union," the Eastern bloc diplomat said. "But the Soviet Union is not too much concerned about this attitude. Moscow is more interested in establishing healthy relations with all its Arab friends, based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's affairs."

On a much-talked about arms deal between Jordan and the Soviet Union, the signs are very positive, the sources said, adding that the question of reaching an agreement to supply Jordan with Soviet arms is going to be thoroughly discussed during the King's stay in Moscow.

The sources did not wish to go into details of the arms deal, but Jordan is known to be mainly interested in buying Soviet anti-aircraft missiles.

On economic, trade and cultural cooperation between the two countries, there is an understanding that much more could be done, and the issue will be raised and discussed when the King pays his visit to the Soviet Union, the sources said.



Lebanese women and children wait at an Israeli checkpoint near the Awali River in occupied South Lebanon for the occupation forces to check their papers and belongings before being allowed into Israel's occupation zone (AP wirephoto)

Gemayel, Assad hold summit as fighting flares around Beirut

DAMASCUS (R) — The presidents of Syria and Lebanon had a third round of talks in Damascus Friday on Lebanon's worsening crisis as artillery battles flared in and around Beirut.

The official Syrian News Agency SANA said Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad discussed how to end Israel's occupation of South Lebanon and shore up the country's shaky national reconciliation process.

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Abdul Rauf Al Kasm and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara'a later joined the talks, which followed two sessions between Mr. Assad and Mr. Gemayel Thursday.

They met at Beirut radio stations reported that intense shelling drew between mostly Druze forces facing the army and a mainly Christian militia in the mountains above Beirut had spread to residential areas of the capital.

Christian Falangist Radio said shells slammed into several districts of east Beirut, including the hill suburb of Baabda where the presidential palace is located.

The mostly Druze Progressive Socialist Party's (PSP) radio said the army shelled towns and villages in the mountains southeast of Beirut. It said areas close to Beirut airport also came under fire.

In the Kharroub region farther south, sporadic shelling between

PSP and "Lebanese Forces" militias marred a ceasefire declared Thursday night by a liaison committee grouping army and militia representatives, the radio stations said.

The shelling heightened tension in Beirut, where relatives of people kidnapped during years of factional fighting continued protests against lack of progress in tracing those missing.

President Gemayel arrived in Damascus Thursday after an acrimonious cabinet meeting on Wednesday at which rival Christian and Muslim ministers blamed each other for delays in a government plan to send Lebanese troops down to Israel's Awali River "front lines."

Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri has threatened to boycott the cabinet and reconsider the stand of his Amal militia unless the much-revised plan gets the go-ahead by Saturday.

The government wants the army to move down the coast road to the Awali before Israel decides to pull back its 12,000 occupation troops. The aim is to stop rival militia clashes in the Kharroub and prepare for an army takeover of the south.

Israel has threatened to withdraw unilaterally unless Lebanon makes concessions at U.N.-hosted talks in the Lebanese border town of Naqoura, which are due to resume on Jan. 7.

President Assad told Mr. Gem-

ayel Thursday he backed Lebanese demands for the "unconditional liberation" of the south, SANA reported.

At the Naqoura talks, which recessed on Dec. 20, Israel has demanded a major security role for U.N. troops and deployment of an Israeli-backed militia along the border.

Lebanon says Israel's conditions, particularly its refusal to allow Lebanese troops to move south of the Zaharani River, infringe on Lebanese sovereignty.

Lebanon insists that its army take charge of all occupied territory, with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) supporting it only in the southern part of the occupied area.

"Assad assured Gemayel that Syria stands strongly by Lebanon in its pursuit of the unconditional liberation of Lebanon from Israeli occupation and against any concession infringing Lebanese sovereignty," SANA said Thursday.

Syria would give Lebanon all possible aid to recover its sovereignty, Mr. Assad was quoted as saying.

Political sources said Mr. Gemayel, who was accompanied by his advisor Michel Samaha and army intelligence chief Colonel Simon Qassis, was expected to return to Beirut Friday night.

Families of kidnap victims block Beirut crossing, page 2

Duties go up on luxury items; prices come down on basic consumer goods

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Anani announced Thursday the government's decision to increase customs duty on a number of luxury items and other goods to curb imports and support local industries. He said the increases were not aimed at boosting government income but were a measure of protection for local production.

Speaking at a press conference, Dr. Anani said Jordan imported JD 1.1 billion worth of goods and exported goods worth JD 260 million this year. The huge trade deficit is usually financed by direct Arab aid or loans, he said.

Under the new government measures, duties on local cigarettes were increased by 20 to 50 fils with prices now ranging from 220 to 350 fils per pack of 20. Prices of imported cigarettes rose from about 11 per cent to up to 500 fils per pack according to the brand. The increase on each pack of foreign cigarettes was 50 fils.

Customs duties on televisions, video sets and air conditioners were increased from 40 per cent to 85 per cent and auto spare parts from 23 to 30 per cent. Duty on refrigerators, carpets, engine lubricants and almonds also went up, while duty on steel plate — the base of one third of the Kingdom's industry — dropped.

Earlier this month, the government raised fuel and electricity charges as part of a drive to conserve energy and reduce fuel subsidy within an austerity programme.

Jordan's oil import bill this year has been estimated at \$600 million. The price of a litre of high octane petrol went up 7.7 per cent to 210 fils and of ordinary petrol by 9.1 per cent to 180 fils. The prices of cooking gas, aviation fuel, asphalt and heavy fuel were also increased.

Households, government establishments, hospitals and places of worship consuming more than 160 kilowatt hours of electricity per month will pay 52 fils instead of 38 fils per kilowatt.

Dr. Anani explained at the press conference held at the ministry that the 1985 draft budget read at the Lower House of Parliament last month indicated the government guidelines on future moves. The figures presented in the draft budget represented the future economic and social policy for the government in 1985, he said.

Dr. Anani said that costs of Jordanian students' education abroad constitutes an annual expenditure of JD 70 million. He said the government at the same time was paying off loans for establishing development projects which represents an increase in expenditure that has to be reviewed.

He told reporters that the government will do all it could to put an end to any increase in expenditure and drain in funds which "transfers all our revenues abroad and gradually reduces our revenue in foreign currencies."

(Continued on page 3)

Greens tour Hebron, voice support for Palestinians

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (Agencies) — A delegation of the West German Greens Party toured the occupied West Bank on Friday as part of a visit that has sparked controversy over the group's support for the Palestinian cause.

The six-member delegation spent four hours in the Palestinian city of Hebron, 32 kilometres south of Jerusalem. They were hosted by Mustafa Natshe, a former mayor deposed by Israel in July 1983.

He told the Associated Press that during a tour of the city and luncheon at his home, the Greens told him "they understand our situation and support the Palestinian right to self-determination."

He said the visitors also heard explanations at Hebron's polytechnic college about agriculture, education and the economy in the West Bank, occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war.

Israeli Radio said the Greens also stopped briefly at a Jewish settlement near Hebron.

The West Bank tour followed an unexpected trip by the group late Thursday to the Yad Vashem memorial to Jewish victims of Nazi Germany.

Delegation head Jurgen Reenrs earlier told an Israeli Foreign Ministry official the group would not visit the memorial. It was not clear why they changed their minds.

Miss Brigitte Heinrich, a member of the European Parliament, who was part of the delegation, was denied entry to the West Bank by the Israeli occupation authorities because of her outspoken support for the Palestinian cause. She was turned back from the King Hussein Bridge on Tuesday. When the delegation wound up a two-day visit to Jordan and headed for the occupied territories.

The delegation members are in Israel on the fourth leg of a Middle East tour which has taken them to Lebanon and Syria in addition to Jordan.

Miss Heinrich left Amman Wednesday for Beirut.

Soviet reusable space system under testing

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A top Soviet space scientist confirmed Friday that the Soviet Union has tested a reusable space "system" that Western experts say is a scaled-down model of a shuttle-type spacecraft.

Ronald Sagdeyev, head of Moscow's Space Research Institute, insisted the device is still in preliminary testing stages and declined to give any details about the project.

Mr. Sagdeyev said he doubted the Soviet Union would ever use a spacecraft modelled directly after the U.S. shuttle and that Soviet scientists still believe the shuttle is not economically practical.

The physicist spoke to Western reporters following a press conference devoted to the Soviets' Vega 1-2 project, under which two unmanned spacecraft were launched this month for rendezvous with Venus next June and with Halley's Comet in March 1986.

He was asked about a TASS announcement on Dec. 19 reporting the successful launch, orbit and controlled descent of a spacecraft described only as Cosmos-1614.

Mr. Sagdeyev said Cosmos-1614, which TASS identified only

as "another artificial earth satellite" when it was launched on Dec. 19, was a test of the model.

Western space experts had said the craft, which splashed down in the Black Sea the same day, was probably a mini-shuttle as it made a controlled descent after orbiting earth.

"It is an experiment which will enable us to determine whether it is competitive (with non-reusable systems)," Mr. Sagdeyev said. "We would certainly like much more research because we are not completely convinced that a shuttle is economically... justified."

"I do not think we will eventually get a copy of the American model," he added.

The Soviet Union has been publicly critical of the U.S. space shuttle on practical grounds. Last month top space official Konstantin Feoktistov said it was unreliable, risky to land and top expensive.

The Soviet Union also accuses Washington of using the shuttle as part of plans to militarise space.

On Dec. 19 the Washington Post, quoting informed sources, said the next U.S. shuttle flight would put a spy satellite in orbit above the western Soviet Union.

Gandhi's party heads for landslide election win

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was headed for his long-expected victory as early returns from India's general election began filtering in Friday but several of his ministers seemed likely to be unseated.

In the first officially declared result of the 507 constituencies at stake, Mr. Gandhi's home affairs minister, veteran Congress Party politician P.V. Narasimha Rao, lost his seat in the Hanamkonda district of Andhra Pradesh state to opposition candidate C. Ranga Reddy by the huge margin of 54,198 votes in a six-cornered contest.

Election officials announced the margin of victory but did not issue total voting figures for the district. Narasimha Rao also ran for a safe Congress seat, in Mahabubnagar state, where results were not yet declared. Multiple candidacies are allowed in the Indian system.

In another declared result, Deputy Finance Minister Janardhan Poojary retained his seat in the southern Karnataka state. In partial returns from other areas, most of Mr. Gandhi's ministers built up clear leads over their opposition challengers, but industry Minister K. Vijaya Bhaskara, Health Minister B. Shanmuganandam and Deputy Planning Minister Harinath Mishra were in serious trouble.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) reported that Congress (I) candidates led in 183 out of 208 con-

stituencies nearly nine hours after counting started.

There were 508 seats at stake in the election to the 544 seat Lok Sabha or lower house of parliament. The rest, in trouble spots like Punjab and Assam, have been declared void.

"Early trends appeared to indicate the prospect of a big Congress (I) victory," PTI said. Political analysts said that judging by early returns Mr. Gandhi was likely to win about 350 seats.

By nightfall New Delhi's streets were packed with Gandhi supporters celebrating a landslide win with drums, dances and slogan-shouting.

Of the first 10 results declared, Congress (I) won nine in constituencies stretching the length of the country.

Even in Delhi, where Sikhs were expected to vote against Congress after 600 people died in anti-Sikh violence following the assassination of Mr. Gandhi's mother Indira, Congress led in all seven seats.

It also swept up votes in the "Hindi heartland" of northern states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan, which send most members to parliament.

In Uttar Pradesh, Congress led in 40 of 41 seats. In Bihar it was ahead in 52 out of 54 seats and in Rajasthan all 25 Congress candidates were leading.

The Congress wave swept aside opposition strongholds, vulnerable because they could not



Counting of ballots under way at a New Delhi election centre Friday (AP wirephoto)

agree on joint candidates. Atal Behari Vajpayee, president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), one of India's three main opposition groups, was trailing a former prince by over 25,000 votes in Gwalior in central India.

Janata Party President Chandra Shekhar was 10,000 votes behind in his Uttar Pradesh constituency.

The only major opposition leader assured of victory was Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Party (DMKP) President Charan Singh, 83, the "old man" of Indian politics.

Mr. Gandhi, 40, showed his party the way by taking 90 per cent of early votes from his own

Amethi constituency in a humiliating rout of his rebel sister-in-law Maneka.

The only state to withstand the Congress avalanche was southern Andhra Pradesh, where filmstar politician N.T. Rama Rao's ruling Telugu Desam Party led in 10 of 17 seats.

In Rajasthan, the only Sikh Congress candidate, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Buta Singh, led by over 18,000 votes and former top diplomat Natwar Singh, tipped to be India's next foreign minister, led by over 6,000 votes.

In Bombay, the country's main commercial centre, Congress led

in five of six seats after winning only one in 1980.

Even film stars were turned into overnight victors by the congress wave.

The country's highest-paid actor, Amitabh Bachchan, was comfortably ahead of his main rival, DMKP leader H.N. Bahuguna, in Allahabad, the Gandhi family's home town in Uttar Pradesh.

Close to 60 per cent of India's 379 million voters cast ballots. Most of the results were expected by late Saturday, and electoral officials said the final tally would be announced by New Year's Eve.

BEIRUT (R) — Relatives of kidnap victims Friday blocked a road linking mainly Muslim west Beirut and the east with blazing tyres and commandeered buses, security sources said.

Hundreds of people have disappeared since the start of Lebanon's civil war in 1975 and some are thought to be still held by rival militias. Protests by relatives and the efforts of various committees have failed to secure their release.

In a communique issued Thursday night, a committee of kidnappers called for more demonstrations Friday to "express scepticism about promises made by officials ... concerning the release of the missing."

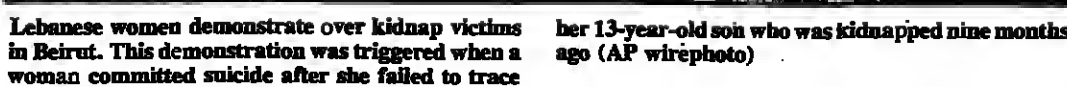
Beirut partially paralysed the town of Nabatiyeh and surrounding villages, security sources said.

They said about half the shops and business in the region closed to protest at the continued detention of Sheikh Mehdi Al Sadeq, originally from Nabatiyeh, who was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen in west Beirut on Wednesday.

Sheikh Sadeq is the director-

The second exploded five minutes later under a military vehicle in the same area.

Syrian troops sealed off and searched the area after the blasts, which shattered the windows of buildings nearby.



"We have not yet agreed with the Israelis on a date or a venue for things. In Israel, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said there flexible approach toward Israel before a new year visit to Washington.

Damaged Spanish tanker arrives in Bahrain

TV & RADIO

Mr. Waite said Col. Qadnan wanted good relations with Britain and had expressed regret at the shooting of the policewoman, which sparked off the siege.

21:55. News Summary. rican Viewpoints

Russell's Memorial (Military Museum):	16:30	Magliero
Collection of military memorabilia dat-	18:00	Isha

Cairo (MS) dings: Amman 60 per cent, Aqaba 46
Luzaca, Bucharest (RC) per cent.

Tikhonov ends Turkish visit

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hussein cables monarch of Nepal

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable to His Majesty King Birendra of Nepal congratulating him on the national day of Nepal. The King also wished the monarch of Nepal further success in leading his people towards progress and prosperity.

King condoles Al Fayed family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid to convey his condolences to the Al Fayed family on the death of the late Ali Mithqal Al Fayed.

Irbid governor tours Ramtha border area

IRBID (Petra) — Irbid Governor Mohammad Al Amin Thursday held discussions with the mayor of Ramtha concerning several administrative issues. The governor also checked the Ramtha border area. During his tour in Ramtha, Mr. Al Amin stressed the need to conserve and clean the touristic sites in the governorate.

Man kills brother with shovel

AJLON (J.T.) — A 45-year-old man, identified as M.B.M., from Sakhrat town in Ajloun district has killed his 55-year-old brother by hitting him on the head with a shovel. The murdered man was taken to hospital but was dead on arrival. The criminal was arrested and Ajloun Prosecutor General Wasfi Rahmani has started investigations into the incident.

Agriculture Ministry issues imports plan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture has issued a plan for the import and export of fruit and vegetables for January. Under the new plan, the following items are permitted to be imported to Jordan: dry onions, potatoes, garlic, turnip, beets, carrots, pears, coconuts, chestnuts, sweet potatoes, sugar cane, thyme, sage and dates. The plan also allows the export of all sorts of fresh fruits and vegetables.

GUVS council discusses fund for cancer centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The executive council of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Thursday held a meeting to discuss a special lottery and various allocations to charitable and social organisations.

During the meeting, presided over by the president of the council, Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, the executive council members reviewed the results of a special lottery which was held to raise funds for establishing a cancer centre at the University of Jordan.

At the meeting, the committee

of the executive council also allocated JD 1,000 for the Jerash women's society project, JD 2,000 for a project conducted by the Abu Obeideh society and the distributions for Zarka unions federation which are: JD 2,000 for the association for the rehabilitation of the handicapped, JD 1,000 for the green oasis association project, JD 1,000 for Al Azrak association project, JD 500 for Omar Bin Khattab Association project and another JD 500 for the Orthodox Charitable Association's house for the elderly.

Ministry spends JD 1 million on Amman road programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works has spent JD 1,292,000 various programmes for road maintenance and public safety projects in Amman Governorate, Minister of Public Works Rayef Nijm, said Thursday.

Mr. Nijm was speaking during a meeting at the Amman Public Works Department during which he reviewed the progress of work on constructing and maintaining various roads in the governorate. The meeting also discussed means of improving the performance and

increasing the efficiency of work at the department.

Attending the meeting were Minister of Public Works Under-Secretary Mu'taz Al Bileisi, the director of the public works department and a number of ministry officials.

The minister, accompanied by his under-secretary and the Amman Public Works Director, then toured a number of projects under construction in Amman Governorate and expressed his satisfaction at the progress of work.

Supply Ministry handles apple imports

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has decided to restrict the import of all kinds of apples to the Ministry of Supply as of Thursday Dec. 27.

Duties go up on luxury items

(Continued from page 1)

He stressed that the government plans to support the Kingdom's production capabilities such as in the agricultural sector. He said the government has indicated this direction in its draft budget for 1985 and stressed the important role played by industry on which the Kingdom has spent millions of dinars to develop.

"There is an emphasis to continue the provision of basic services" for citizens in the Kingdom, Dr. Anani said. He explained that the Kingdom has reached an advanced stage in the field of production and services and that "this development should be preserved."

On the issue of rationalisation of energy, Dr. Anani said the increase in the prices of petroleum products extends to other commodities consumed by the citizen who will develop a different attitude in consumption consistent with the change in prices.

He said the new prices were considered after a thorough study of the various consumed items, differentiating between basic items and luxury goods.

The minister said that Jordan will save about JD 8 to JD 9 million a year as a result of the new measures. He emphasised that the government's latest measures do not imply an increase in prices, and that merchants can achieve the same profits by increasing the volume of local sales.

In areas where temperature is high, Dr. Anani added, the government can import air-conditioners free of customs duties. The tariff on imported aluminium radiators was raised while it remained the same in respect of radiators made of metal sheets.

Dr. Anani also called for directing special attention to local industries such as clothes, shoes, furniture, printing press materials and bags.

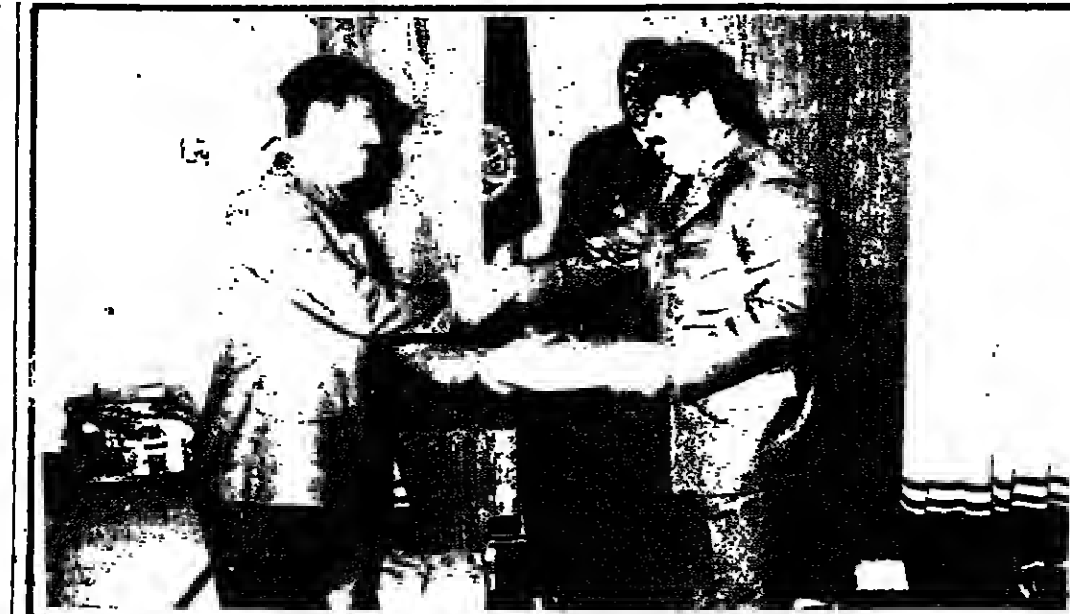
"We are not in need of importing furniture worth JD 15 to JD 20 million a year since we have a good quality local furniture," he said.

Therefore, customs tariff on imported furniture has been increased from 35 per cent to 50 per cent, Dr. Anani said.

Speaking about oil lubricants, Dr. Anani said the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) is capable of producing such products in big quantities which can meet the country's needs. Therefore customs duties payable on imported oil lubricants have been increased from 100 fils per kilo to 150 fils, he said.

Under the new government measures, customs duty on imported statues and similar works of art increased from 65 per cent to 85 per cent.

Earlier on Wednesday, Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub had announced defence orders reducing prices of sugar, rice and fresh meat effective Dec. 27.



Public Security Department Assistant Director Brigadier-General Nassef Mubay Aldeeb (left) Thursday presents graduates with prizes at a ceremony for officers completing training courses in prison supervision and traffic control (Petra photo)

PSD graduates prison, traffic officers

AMMAN (Petra) — Assistant director of the Public Security Department (PSD), Brigadier-General Nassef Mubay Aldeeb Thursday patronised the graduation of officers who have completed the second course for supervising and administrative prison including two officers from Saudi

officers and the seventh basic traffic course at the police officers training institute.

At the beginning of the celebration, Brigadier-General Aldeeb delivered a speech in which he emphasised that the traffic crimes and the increasing number of road accidents are two of the most important problems at present. He said that both of these issues negatively influence the social and the economical life of human societies. He also said that modern society's attitudes towards prisoners has changed and that the aim of imprisonment is no longer for punishment but rather a drive for reform.

Sixteen officers participated in the five-week prison supervision and administration course in-

Arabia and two from Qatar. The course aimed to provide the participants with the latest technical means of dealing with prisoners and ways of improving their behavioural trends through a certain framework and applied programmes.

The five-week basic traffic course for officers, in which 15 officers took part, aimed at teaching participants traffic rules and training them in writing charts and accident reports as well as methods of investigating road accidents.

At the end of the speeches Brig.-Gen. Aldeeb distributed certificates to the participants and also awarded prizes to those who passed the examination with distinction.

Panel suggests technology education for farmers

Experts assess agricultural development, investment

By Rana Sabbagh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Agriculture in Jordan, Present and Future", was the subject of a panel discussion organised by the League of Jordanian Writers Thursday. "The development plans have managed to improve agricultural production, qualitatively and quantitatively," according to Dr. Salem Al Lawzi, undersecretary at the Ministry of Agriculture. He added that Jordan has almost reached the state of food self sufficiency as Jordan exports some fruits and white meat production has reached an average of three quarters of the country's consumption.

He also said that the share of the agricultural sector in the Gross National Product (GNP) has decreased due to the increase in other sectors. Dr. Lawzi said that the target of the current development plan is to increase agricultural production to 142 thousand tonnes, in contrast with the 1976-80 development plan which aimed at reaching 109 thousand tonnes annually.

Concerning the ministry's future plans, Dr. Lawzi said that future projects include a soil conservation programme, scientific research, improving animal wealth and increasing loans to farmers. He added that the 1986-90 development plan will deal with rain-fed agriculture, apple production, wheat production at Sahel Sowan and promoting animal wealth. Dr. Lawzi questioned

whether a new agricultural module to be implemented will help in alleviating the current agricultural problems in Jordan.

Engineer Ghassan Qamhawi, president of the Agricultural Engineers Association, discussed the problems facing Jordanian farmers and the agricultural sector which, he said, do not get adequate attention from the Jordanian government. He outlined the major problem as a social backwardness of farmers who refuse to adjust to new agricultural technologies. Therefore, he continued, the government should assist in promoting technology and educate farmers how to use such technology for their economical benefit. He added that farmers lack scientific research regarding sheltered agriculture and said that there is a lack of governmental control over agricultural pro-

duction. Mr. Qamhawi said that one of the major issues facing the agricultural sector is the problem of marketing that resulted from past governmental policies in controlling imports. He added that Jordanian farmers have given a bad impression of themselves in international markets regarding their crops. Another problem are the current political situations in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq.

Dr. Suleiman Arabiyat, president of the Arab Engineers Association, said that when discussing agricultural reality, numerical analysis is needed and this data should reflect the economic and agricultural indicators regarding the situation of agriculture in Jordan. He said that 26,597 Jordanian farmers work in agriculture and that the total agricultural area is decreasing due to the boom in urban development and the decreasement of land.

Concerning the future of agriculture in Jordan, Dr. Arabiyat said that there are several negative indicators such as the use of technology would not serve for too long due to epidemics produced through the use of fertilisers and pesticides. Also, he said, water resources in the Jordan Valley are not guaranteed and the soil in the Valley is becoming saline and that the investments in the Jordan Valley are invested without benefit. Therefore, he added, an immediate evaluation of this situation is needed.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: U.S. hostility increases

THROUGH THE \$500 million additional American military aid to Israel, which the U.S. defence and foreign secretaries approved, the U.S. once again has expressed its support for Israel and its blessing of the Israeli aggressive practices in the occupied Palestinian land and South Lebanon and that it supports the Israeli passive stand towards a Middle East settlement.

By doing so, the U.S. administration is trying to make Arabs understand that the thick stick it supplied Israel with will not be affected by the bad economic situations which they usually talk about, and that the stick will continue to be directed them. Hence, the U.S. policy has confirmed anew that it is firm in encouraging Israeli terror against Arabs and that its talk about peace is mere publicity.

Therefore, the glimmer of hope some parties saw for achieving a balance in U.S. policy has not lasted for a long time. It has soon vanished when America has approved U.S. additional military aid to Israel. It is hoped that this incident will convince those who still pin hopes on American policy in the region that U.S. policy is more hostile to Arabs after the reelection of Reagan than it was before his election.

The course of events in the area proves again that American bias against the Arabs is deepening and that no other party is concerned over this situation except Arabs who have to confront it by changing their present positions and living up to the level of challenges if they want to bring U.S. hostility to an end or prevent its aggravation.

Arabs should also remember that waiting for a solution from outside the Arab World is not but a waste of time and that there is no alternative for a courageous and unified Arab stand, capable of repulsing aggressors and making them and their allies reconsider their policies.

Sawt Al Shaab: Seeking better trade balance

THE SERIES of economic actions the government has recently taken is aimed at alleviating burdens which both the government and citizens alike bear. In the light of the present economic situation prevailing in the area and the World at large.

Maintaining balance between national expenditure and income can not be ensured except through bridging the channels exhausting financial resources.

A look at the balance of payments clearly indicates that there is a big gap between our imports and exports, noting that Jordan's imports totalled JD 1100 million, while exports amounted to JD 260 million, thus leaving a surplus in expenditure of JD 840 million. Luxurious commodities constitute the best part of imported goods.

Restrictions on importing luxurious commodities, through raising the customs tariffs, will contribute to putting an end to the exhaustion of our financial resources and their leakage outside the country, thus positively contributing to boosting our national economic activities, such as the industrial sector, which is facing a cut-throat competition.

Achieving balance between the basic needs of citizens and the economic considerations, particularly financial ones, is an essential step if achieving this balance aims at supporting other productive sectors such as industry, agriculture, transport and construction.

Success of the new measures depends mainly on citizens' awareness of their urgency and for the reasons behind their introduction and their direct cooperation in making them a success through a behavioural reaction commensurate with these measures.

The rise in the cost of living relative to prevailing economic conditions, should be matched other parallel measures, capable of enabling the people with limited income to face the increasing burdens, which both public and private sectors should contribute to.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Conspiracy against Palestinian growth

WE SHOULD look seriously into the clandestine intentions suggested by PERES towards the great increase in the Arab-Palestinian population of the occupied territories in comparison with that of the Jews.

The Israeli prime minister described the phenomenon as one of the major problems that face Israel side by side with the problem of decrease in the number of emigrants into Israel and the deterioration of the Israeli economy. At the same time, he stressed that certain procedures will be taken to solve that problem.

It is worthwhile to notice that the view expressed by Peres does not differ much from that of terrorist Kahane who calls for the ostracisation of the Arab presence from the occupied West Bank. This criminal plan explains the sinister campaign carried out by the occupation authorities in the West Bank under the pretence of "organising the Arab family" which aims at urging the Palestinian woman to reduce birth rate, claiming it would help improve the family's living standards. The same plan explains the criminal collective poisoning of Arab school girls in West Bank schools two years ago which doctors expressed fears would lead to sterility.

Therefore, we should act intently and take necessary measures through deepening Arab Palestinians' awareness of the Israeli conspiracy and encouraging Arab women there to maintain a natural birth course. The Arabs are also called upon to organise an international campaign to draw the world's attention to Israel's plans that represent another kind of violation of international laws and human rights and a return to the extinct Nazi practices. If Israel were to be able to execute the conspiracy of our age, the United States should remember it would not be exempted from responsibility.

Al Dustour: Tough Lebanese stance

A HEATED argument goes on nowadays in various Israeli political circles of the government coalition on the issue of withdrawal from Lebanon and whether this withdrawal should be partial to reach the Litani River or Zahrani, or a complete withdrawal to Lebanon's international borders with occupied Palestine. Regardless of arguments and details each of which includes a different political line the two main partners in the Israeli government disagree when it comes to tactics in a way that postpones and delays the whole issue of withdrawal driving Israel into another government crisis.

While the Israeli Labour Party manoeuvres with the issue of a unilateral withdrawal, the Likud Party seems to reject this idea totally, as this in the long run will signify the failure of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon which was led by the Likud former government.

In contrast with all that, the Lebanese stand grew tougher day after day and continuously rejected Israel's dictation of it will during the Naqura talks, which was aimed at challenging the sovereignty of Lebanon on its soil and limiting its absolute right to determine its own internal choices according to its own interests.

In this situation, where the Israeli stand is weakening while the Lebanese stand is being strengthened, thanks to the Lebanese national resistance, it has become obligatory that all the brethren of Lebanon should provide all support politically and materially for the Lebanese national stance.

Sawt Al Shaab: Lebanon regaining integrity

WITH THE beginning of each security or political move by Lebanon to put its house in order once again, we find ourselves hoping that this brotherly country will stand its one-thousand-mile march to restore its unity, sovereignty and freedom that have been violated for the last ten years.

The endorsement by the Lebanese government of a security plan to deploy the army in the Kharroub region and the coastal road to Sidon is, despite Lebanese inhibitions and Israeli opposition, the beginning of emphasising Lebanon's capability to control its internal situation by rectifying all what led to the factional explosion and the ten-year-old bitter civil war.

The Lebanese leaders are asked today more than any other time to work hand in hand in the framework of Lebanon's interests to foil Israeli attempts at imposing conditions that are not less dangerous than the May 17 agreement, and to prove to the world their ability to confront challenges and bypass differences and preserve their dignity, independence and national sovereignty.

Strange winds blowing at the Elysee Palace

By Musa Keilani

WHEN PRESIDENT Mitterrand was voted with his Socialist Party to power, there were many speculations in Arab quarters as to how much his older ties with Israeli politicians will affect his political course of action. Many feared that Mr. Mitterrand's commitment to the "Socialist International" will lead him to adopting Shimon Peres' Zionist views regarding the Palestinian people. Some apologists argued that a French president had to give priority to France's strategic global and regional interests, which would negate any potentiality of falling into electioneering tactics or Zionist traps.

Unfortunately, recent news from Tel-Aviv and Paris revealed that France had already agreed to supply Israel with

two nuclear reactors to be used for the Mid-Dead Canal project. This French stand began to many Arabs by surprise due to the special esteem Paris had enjoyed by many Arabs since President De Gaulle's principled stance of 1967.

Nobody would question Paris when it looks to its national interests. But it is France's claim to be a promoter of peace, and France's credibility that are being questioned now. Put in a greater historical perspective, the past thirty years may look very different soon to both the Arab people and the French people as well.

The Arabs are not oblivious to the Israeli special ties with the Fourth Republic and the early years of the Fifth in 1958. Then Israel was the principal

friend and ally to Paris. Nuclear and military cooperation prevailed, co-ordination between "socialist" Israel and colonialist France had its manifestations against the Algerian people and Nasser's Egypt.

With De Gaulle's assumption of power, intelligence and nuclear cooperation were cut off. Better ties were established with the Arab world. On June 3, 1967, General De Gaulle summoned the Israeli consul to announce the halt of \$60 million worth of arms shipments. Moreover, he announced, in advance, that France would condemn whoever fired the first shot. In January 1968, France reinforced an arms embargo on Israel when the news about U.S. shipments to Israel were leaked and

U.S.-Israeli military cooperation was revealed.

The consecutive governments of the Fifth Republic maintained the same fair and just position of recognising Arab-Palestinian rights. French Foreign Minister Michel Jobert played a key role in formulating "Declaration of the Nine" in 1973, which recognises the legitimate rights of Palestinians as a people rather than refugees. France defended an amendment to U.N. Resolution 342 to include "the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination." It also called for PLO participation in all peace negotiations. President Giscard d'Estaing was forceful at the 1981 Venice summit in defending the full legitimate rights of the Pal-

estinian people, in defiance of some European countries which called for a milder statement.

Both President Pompidou and President Giscard d'Estaing adhered to the same principles of giving priority to French interests and to France's global role as the "third force" as between and apart from the United States and the Soviet Union: a "third force" with commitment and leadership burden in the "Third World". A role of a friend and a champion of human liberation.

Many Palestinians still remember when the French president announced France's "assistance in the emancipation of oppressed peoples and individuals is blazingly

engraved on many souls and on many soils."

The essential French legacy, culturally and politically, calls for an identification with the Palestinian people. The basic fact remains that the kaleidoscope spectrum of opinionated ideology should not make France nuclearly assist an aggressor.

All over the Arab World, one could see the immediate results of the sober French policy. Whether in the Middle East or among OPEC countries, French products, have been making good ways for consumption markets. French credibility is sacrosanct. The French image is "par excellence". Palestinians and Arabs hate to see any blemish in that lustre.

Politics, fundamentalists reappear on Egyptian campus.

By Hamza Hendawi

CAIRO — Signs point to a revival of student politics in Egypt's universities with Islamic fundamentalists regaining some of the ground they lost in a 1981 government crackdown. Students and lecturers say.

The government is keeping a watchful eye and acted swiftly to close the 1,000-year-old Al-Azhar Islamic University for two weeks on Nov. 26 after disturbances there. Students' demands included the implementation of Islamic Law (sharia).

At both Al-Azhar and the sec-

ular Cairo University, bearded students and women covering everything but their eyes began to reappear at the start of the current academic year in October.

Beards had almost vanished from the campuses after the government cracked down on Islamic fundamentalists just before and after Muslim zealots gunned down President Anwar Sadat at a military parade in October 1981.

Students say Cairo University elections to students unions this month saw fundamentalists making modest gains, except at the faculty of engineering where they won 38 of the 50 seats at stake.

Cairo University was a hotbed of dissent from the days of the Egyptian monarchy but had seemed quiescent after former President Sadat restricted student activism at the end of the 1970s.

This month's elections saw active campaigning by candidates calling for academic reform and less state control. Students and lecturers said fundamentalists appeared to exploit a general tolerance by government.

Mr. Sadat ordered the arrest of nearly 1,600 opponents, many of them fundamentalists, a month before he was assassinated. After his death, university authorities

banned all political activity on campuses and police, uniformed and plainclothed, were introduced to keep order.

The closure of Al-Azhar University followed four days of clashes between students and police after a student was killed in an accident involving a police truck. Some 100 students were arrested before classes were suspended.

The student demonstrators complained about living conditions and what they said was corruption. There were also calls for the removal of the university police.

There were no incidents when

Al-Azhar, one of the world's great centres of Islamic learning, reopened on Dec. 10.

The disturbances at Al-Azhar were a source of deep concern to the government, which apparently suspects opposition political parties of trying to stir up dissent.

Opposition newspapers gave wide coverage of the Al-Azhar riots and clashes between rival groups at Cairo University during the student polling there.

President Hosni Mubarak's government clearly is not ready to tolerate disorders at a time of economic hardship. Mr. Mubarak told local jour-

nalists last week that future disorders would be seen by the government as attempts to hinder production and that authorities would respond firmly.

Government resources were so stretched that any future acts of sabotage by students would mean cuts in state spending to replace damaged property, one journalist quoted him as saying during the private meeting.

Egypt has about 500,000 university students and has allocated 259 million pounds (\$308 million) for investment in education, research and youth in the current budget.

New Caledonia feels the wind of change

The escalation of tension and violence on the island of New Caledonia earlier this month resulted in the murder of ten people and the subsequent sending in of French troops to maintain law and order. Jurek Martin, recently in New Caledonia, looks at the problems it faces as it looks beyond its role as one of the last outposts of the French empire.

TIME IS a commodity that is not supposed to matter much on remote Pacific islands. But here, in the French territory of New Caledonia, as well as in the political cauldron of Paris, time has suddenly become of the essence.

For most of the 62,000 Melanesians, otherwise known as Kanaks, a 42 per cent minority in their own land, time means creating the newly independent state of Kanaky by 1986 and, in any event, before the next French presidential election, lest it return a conservative and less sympathetic regime.

For most of the 54,000 Europeans, virtually all French, time means resisting independence forever, or at least until the Socialist government in Paris is no more.

Already, their political allies in France, among them Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris and presidential aspirant, the former President Giscard d'Estaing and even Mr. Jean Marie Le Pen, whose far right National Front Party captured nearly one fifth of the New Caledonian vote in this year's elections to the European Parliament, are harrying the Socialists at every turn.

For the Mitterrand government, time had meant a rather stately and considered approach to the agreed goal of the end of colonial status for New Caledonia, with the ultimate Act of Self-Determination not taking place until 1989. That time-scale has now been shortened.

Mr. Edgar Pisani, President Mitterrand's special emissary, despatched to New Caledonia at a tension and violence escalated alarmingly, has given himself and all interested parties until Feb. 2, next year to come up with a blueprint for the achievement and transition to independence.

Inevitably, the whole question of the end of one of the last outposts of the French empire invites comparisons with other last stands of colonialism, be they in Algeria, Vietnam or Rhodesia. But each case is different and New Caledonia, hitherto known for its nickel deposits — one third of identified world reserves — for the picture postcards of near-naked women of all hues sporting themselves as on the Riviera, and for the strange derivative of cricket played mostly by women dressed in missionary robes, is no exception.

Some brief history is perhaps in order. Captain Cook was the first European to lay eyes on New Caledonia, and name it, in 1774. France took possession of it in 1853 and used it principally for the next 50 years as a penal colony. Indeed, the first French settlers were prison warders and convicts, who were obliged by law to remain in the territory after they had completed their sentences.

Alan Ward, the expert in Melanesian affairs from Melbourne, has described French administration of the territory for much of the next 100 years as a combination of paternalism and

contempt for the indigenous population.

The situation changed rapidly after World War II, which began in New Caledonia with the overthrow by French settlers of the local Melanesian governor and ended with the presence of several thousand allied troops on the island. Most Melanesians were enfranchised in 1951, which in turn gave birth a year later to the multi-racial political party, the Union Caledonienne (U.C.), which was to become the most effective political body for much of the next 30 years.

In general, though, by 1979 a rough three-way consolidation had emerged, featuring the mostly French RCPR, committed to remaining a part of France, the mostly Kanak Independence Front, which claimed to be led by Jean Marie Tjibaou, and a smaller multi-racial roughly Socialist middle ground under the banner of the FNCS, which joined a coalition with the RCPR until two years ago when it switched allegiance to the Front.

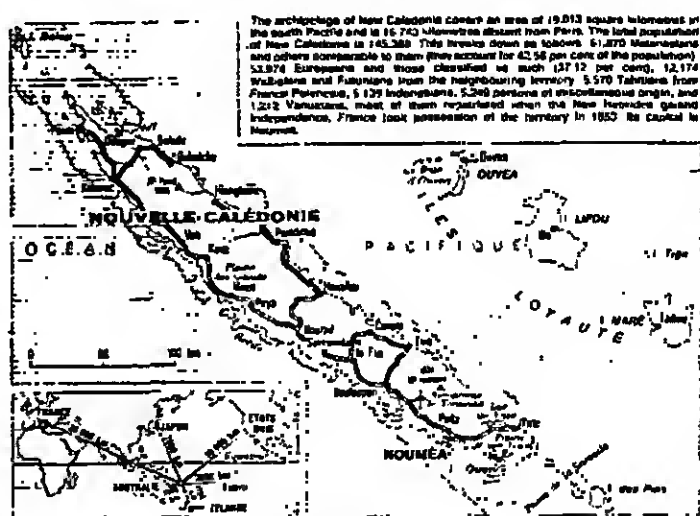
With tension and violence growing, and attitudes inevitably hardening, the critical focal point became last month's elections to the local assembly which were boycotted by the Front. The RCPR was returned. Mr. Tjibaou promptly proclaimed himself head of the provisional Kanak liberation government known by its initials FLNKS.

In addition, FLNKS set out to prove that outside Noumea it could effectively paralyse the island, a task in which it has been almost completely successful and which has undoubtedly caused its popularity to rise. France was obliged to send in 1,600 troops to maintain law and order, a tough task in the rural districts as witnessed by the ambush in the far north earlier this month when 10 Kanaks, including two of Mr. Tjibaou's brothers, were murdered.

Mr. Pisani has a formidable task in trying to square this Pacific circle, leaving aside — which is impossible — the superimposition on the territory of a major political debate in France. The question here, increasingly, is how to get the Kanaks, the French and the 20 per cent of the population who are neither, to learn to live together again, almost regardless of the regime.

It is doubly difficult in an island of such limited economic assets. Nickel, which comprises over 90 per cent of exports, remains the crutch, but its fortunes have declined since the great boom of 1969-70 brought illusory wealth and an influx of immigrants to the territory.

Otherwise, the economy remains basic. Tourism — there is a Club Med — was doing well before the latest round of troubles, with 100,000 visitors a year, one third of them from Australia, an attainable target. This being a part of France, the bureaucracy is a substantial employer and indeed most of the Kanak leaders come from the Civil Service or the par-



But, objectively, there is little to suggest that the Independence movement conforms to convenient ideological or political patterns.

Mr. Tjibaou is generally considered a man of moderation, poetics, even distinction. He certainly has a tactical sense in putting pressure on the French government and in demanding, for example, that those allowed to vote in the Act of Self-Determination constitute only those resident in New Caledonia for, in effect, a generation; at present only a six-month residency qualification applies and Kanaks are mindful that they ceased to be a majority in their land about 25 years ago.

Mr. Pisani's hardest practical problem will be to come up with an acceptable formula for this final vote, for the policy of the Mitterrand government remains, that independence will not be granted against the wishes of the people.

The answer lies not only in this now sullied tropical outpost of France, the capital of which goes about its provincial and tourist business with an apparent calm reflective of an earlier age, but where the countryside is littered with burned-out cars and houses, dead cattle and frightened people. It also lies at the heart of metropolitan France, among politicians for whom this corner of a once-great empire might just as well be on the moon.

And the answer must be found in a time scale that leaves little margin for error — Financial Times news feature.

Case tests Argentine officers' immunity

By John Reichertz

BUENOS AIRES — Charges against an Argentine Navy lieutenant regarding the disappearance of a Swedish girl are upsetting a government scheme to try only top-ranking military leaders for abuses during the country's "dirty war", human rights and military sources say.

If the case against Lt. Alfredo Astiz succeeds, they say, scores of officers on active duty could be open to prosecution, undermining a pact which led to democratic rule one year ago.

The military sources said a rise in human rights charges against officers on active duty would have unforeseeable consequences. Middle-level officers have been shielded from prosecution until now by military courts and by a new military justice code effectively protecting officers acting under orders.

"It is without a doubt a form of amnesty in disguise, implemented to calm down certain sectors of the Armed Forces," said Raul Rabanaque Caballero, a leftist politician.

But the shield against prosecution has been too effective, thwarting efforts to try top military leaders and leading to more pressure for the punishment of the military as a whole.

Lt. Astiz, on manoeuvres in the Atlantic aboard the navy's flagship aircraft carrier earlier this month, was ordered to appear before a federal judge in Buenos Aires for questioning on the disappearance of 17-year-old Dagmar Hagelin in 1977.

He refused to testify about the Swedish girl, last seen in a clandestine detention camp run by the navy, and was detained.

When Lt. Astiz was summoned to court, top admirals called a special meeting at which navy officials said they would consider the ramifications of the case.

Human rights groups said the highly-publicised meeting was designed to pressure the courts. In the event, Lt. Astiz was excused from an identity parade.

The case against Lt. Astiz has

become a cause celebre among human rights groups, partly because of the notoriety he gained from surrendering the South Georgia islands to Britain during the 1982 South Atlantic conflict.

International attention has been aroused because of the involvement of the Swedish government and accusations by human rights groups that Lt. Astiz was also involved in the disappearance of two French nuns in 1977.

A nine-month investigation by a state commission on missing people reported that about 9,000 people were still missing after abduction by military personnel during the period of military rule between 1976 and 1983. Most were believed to have been held in 340 clandestine detention centres where torture was common, it said.

The fate of the "desaparecidos" would be known only when those responsible for their abduction were brought to justice, the commission said.

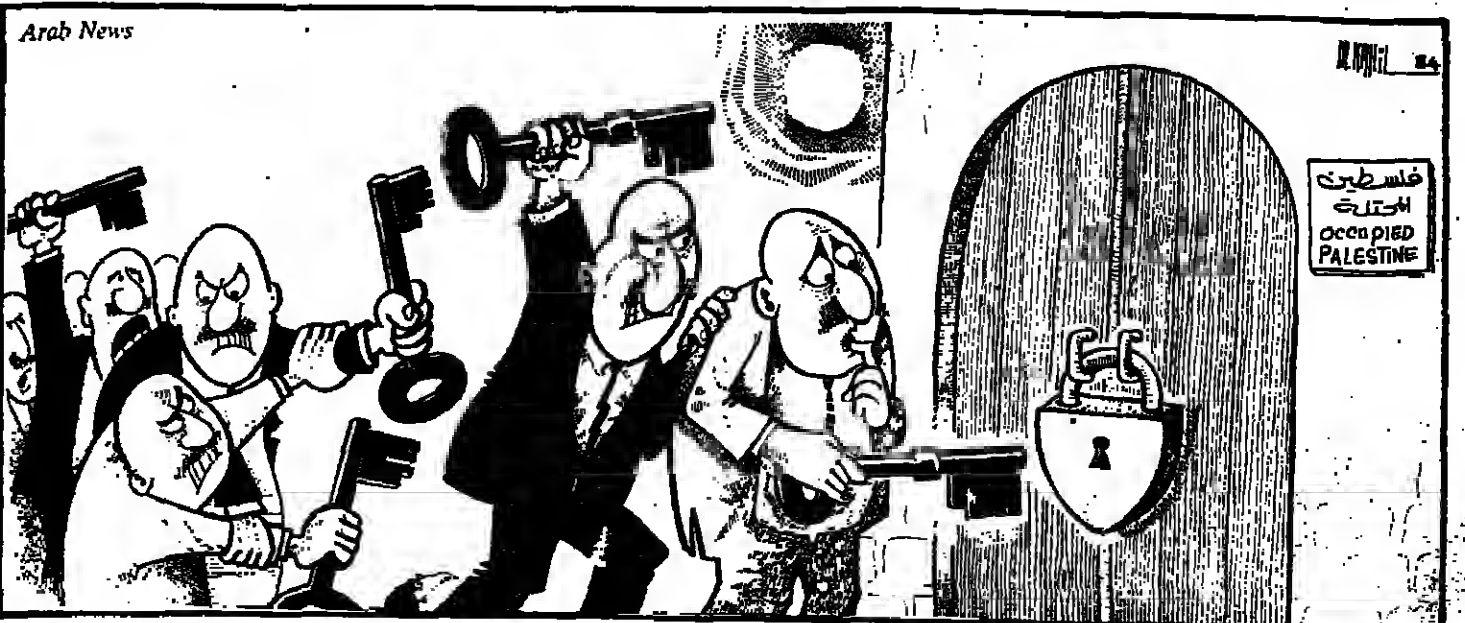
Leading military figures like former military junta member Emilio Massera, who as navy chief in 1977 was Lt. Astiz's top commander, have accepted responsibility for the fight against guerrillas but denied any wrongdoing.

Federal Prosecutor Julio Strassera said statements like these were rhetoric intended to indicate that human rights violations were carried out by subordinates, without the knowledge of the commanders.

"If one takes responsibility for the actions carried out in the fight against subversion, it means recognising having ordered operations that led to the clandestine detention and culminated in the torture and death of thousands of people," he said.

Rabanaque Caballero described protection for the military as a vicious circle: military judges ruled that orders issued by former military junta members were beyond reproach and subordinates claimed they were only following orders.

"This vicious circle has to be broken," he said.



Nature takes its revenge

In 1984 Nature began to exact large penalties for Man's crimes against it. Major disasters struck in Africa and Asia. Parts of Latin America moved closer to environmental bankruptcy. 1985 promises more to come.

By Lloyd Timberlake

LONDON — 1984 was the year when Nature announced it had had enough.

Thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, were dying in the highlands of Ethiopia, where growing populations have stripped the land of trees and topsoil — stripping the land of its ability to feed them. The tragedy seemed to be spreading across the Sahel, with people already starving in Sudan and Chad.

Much of Bangladesh spent months under water: floods ruined crops over an area bigger than Israel; half a million homes were destroyed, and it remained an open question at the year's end whether Bangladesh could get enough seeds in the ground to avoid famine in 1985. About 80 per cent of this floodwater came from the deforested Himalayan foothills of India and Nepal.

In 1984, India surveyed its progress in supplying villages with clean drinking water. The government found that more villages were losing water supplies than were gaining them, especially around the Himalayan foothills. In one region — northern Uttar Pradesh — 2,300 out of 2,700 new pump projects failed because of

lack of groundwater.

Nalni Jayal, a senior adviser to the Planning Commission of India, blamed this drying up of groundwater on the rapid clearing of the forests which once slowed monsoon run-off and syphoned it into the ground. He found that Nepal, Thailand and Malaysia were suffering similar problems, and predicted that all of East Asia was on the brink of a "critical ecological crisis", in which dry season droughts would alternate with monsoon floods.

"Nature is beginning to exact her revenge", said Nicholas Gillett, chairman of a recent Quaker symposium in London on links between ecological degradation and political conflict in Central America.

Venezuelan Elias Pacheco, a senior economist with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, told the same meeting: "It is a game with only losers. The rural poor are forced to impoverish the land; the land in turn makes these farmers ever poorer."

Even staid fiscal organisations like the World Bank were beginning to see the human hand in "natural" disasters. A bank report on sub-Saharan Africa published in September found that "recent

droughts have underlined the seriousness of soil erosion, deforestation and fuelwood shortages."

"Third World" rural environmental bankruptcy also played a role in some apparently unconnected events which made international headlines. The Sikh militancy in Punjab state which led to the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was fuelled in part by Sikh reaction to rapid immigration into the Punjab by Hindus from impoverished surrounding states, and in part by Sikh demands for more water for agriculture.

Many of the over 2,000 victims of the December poison gas leak from the pesticide plant in Bhopal, India, were former farmers who fled the countryside to move into illegal shanties near the plant. The 452 people who died (with more than 1,000 missing) when gas storage facilities blew up in the Mexico City suburb of San Juan Ixtitlan were mostly squatters recently arrived from the highly eroded Mexican countryside.

In Central America, deforestation was causing erosion which was rapidly silting up the lake which supplies water to the Panama Canal, according to a draft report by the Washington-based Conservation Foundation. The reservoir which supplies the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa was

filling with soil; and hydroelectric dams in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala were all losing generating potential due to siltation.

There were signs of hope, if only in that the horror of Ethiopia focused world attention on the environmental bankruptcy of fragile regions such as the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. The World Bank was moved to blame victim nations and donors alike for putting their money into conference centres, universities and hotels, while Africa raises less food per person each year.

The U.N. General Assembly unanimously approved a declaration on the economic and social crisis in Africa, concentrating on the 150 million facing hunger there, avoiding the usual demands for a new economic order. It noted that the African nations themselves "have the primary responsibility for their development and for addressing the present crisis".

But the superpowers showed little appreciation of the power of Nature to destabilise their allies. The 1984 Kissinger Commission Report on Central America omitted any mention of projects to save that region's topsoil and water so peasants would be more able to farm and less willing to take up weapons against the governments. The primary U.S. response continued to be military aid.



Drawing by Richard Wilsoo

The Soviet Union was made to send some relief aid to Ethiopia, but still declined to invest in the work of the Peasant Associations there to plant trees and build terraces to conserve soil and water. The primary Soviet response continued to be military aid. The year 1984 saw the 10th

anniversary of the World Food Conference, where U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger proclaimed that "within a decade no child will go to bed hungry, that no family will fear for its next day's bread and that no human being's future and capacity will be stunted by malnutrition." In the decade

since then, the number of hungry doubled to 500 million, and large areas of the planet appeared to be losing the capacity to feed their inhabitants.

Mr. Kissinger also said then: "The profound comment on our era is that for the first time we have the technical capacity to free

mankind from the scourge of hunger". As 1984 closed, there seemed less chance today than before that humanity would bend its technical capacity away from destroying the environmental resource base, towards restoring it so it could better nurture Humankind — Earth's creature.

Honest forgers help revive blacksmithing as art form

By Boris Weintraub

DE PERE, Wis. — David A. Ponsler, 23, of Jacksonville, Fla., watched carefully as Francis Whitaker, 77, a master blacksmith from Aspen, Colo., bent a piece of steel around a bar into a gentle curve.

"Work from the bottom up, not from the top down," Whitaker told Ponsler. "You do it easier that way."

All day, day after day, Whitaker had little bits of guidance for Ponsler and about a dozen fellow smiths chosen to participate in Whitaker's master class. The common thread to all the advice was a basic message he offered Ponsler: "Don't rush it. Take your time."

An unhurried art

There is no way a blacksmith can hurry. There are few ways to speed up the process. That is one of the charms of blacksmithing as practised here at the conference of the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America.

Whether a smith is making an item as simple as a coat hook, or as complex as the huge gates under construction by Whitaker's class and destined for the National Ornamental Metals Museum in Memphis, it is slow, painstaking work, done primarily by hand.

The common wisdom is that blacksmithing is dying out, that there is no more need for hand-forged work in these days of automated farms and the post-industrial economy, where robots and machines can mass-produce items in no time. The evidence of the conference suggests that the common wisdom is wrong. Blacksmithing is surging back.

Some 700 persons attended the conference, most of them working smiths. They came from at least 36 states, from seven Canadian provinces, from England, France, Germany, Israel, and Czechoslovakia.

They were varied in experience, from the youthful crowd that packed demonstrations on basic forging techniques to masters like Whitaker, who has been a smith for 62 years, and England's Antony Robinson, who recently designed and crafted a mammoth set of stainless steel gates for the Great Hall of Winchester.

Book is the key

The turning point was a book by Alex W. Bealer of suburban Atlanta. In "The Art of Blacksmithing," published in 1968, he paid homage to the dying craft and passed on some of its techniques.

To Bealer's amazement, he began to get calls and letters from aspiring young smiths, telling him that his book was just what they had been seeking for blacksmithing tips, or that it had inspired them to take up the craft they now loved.

In 1973, Bealer invited about 25 enthusiasts to his home. There they formed the Artist Blacksmith Association and scheduled their first conference for the next year.

In 1974, the group had about 200 members. By 1980 there were 1,260. By the time of this year's conference, on the grounds of St. Norbert's College, membership stood at 2,400 and was still climbing.

The phenomenon apparently is international. Richard Quillen of suburban London attended the 1976 conference and became ins-

pired to form the British Artist Blacksmith Association. That group now has more than 200 members, several of whom attended this year's U.S. conference.

A survey of the American association's membership earlier this year disclosed that more than half did their smithing purely for enjoyment. Most of the rest earned at least part of their income by selling their work, and 203 of the 1,500 participants in the survey worked at it full time.

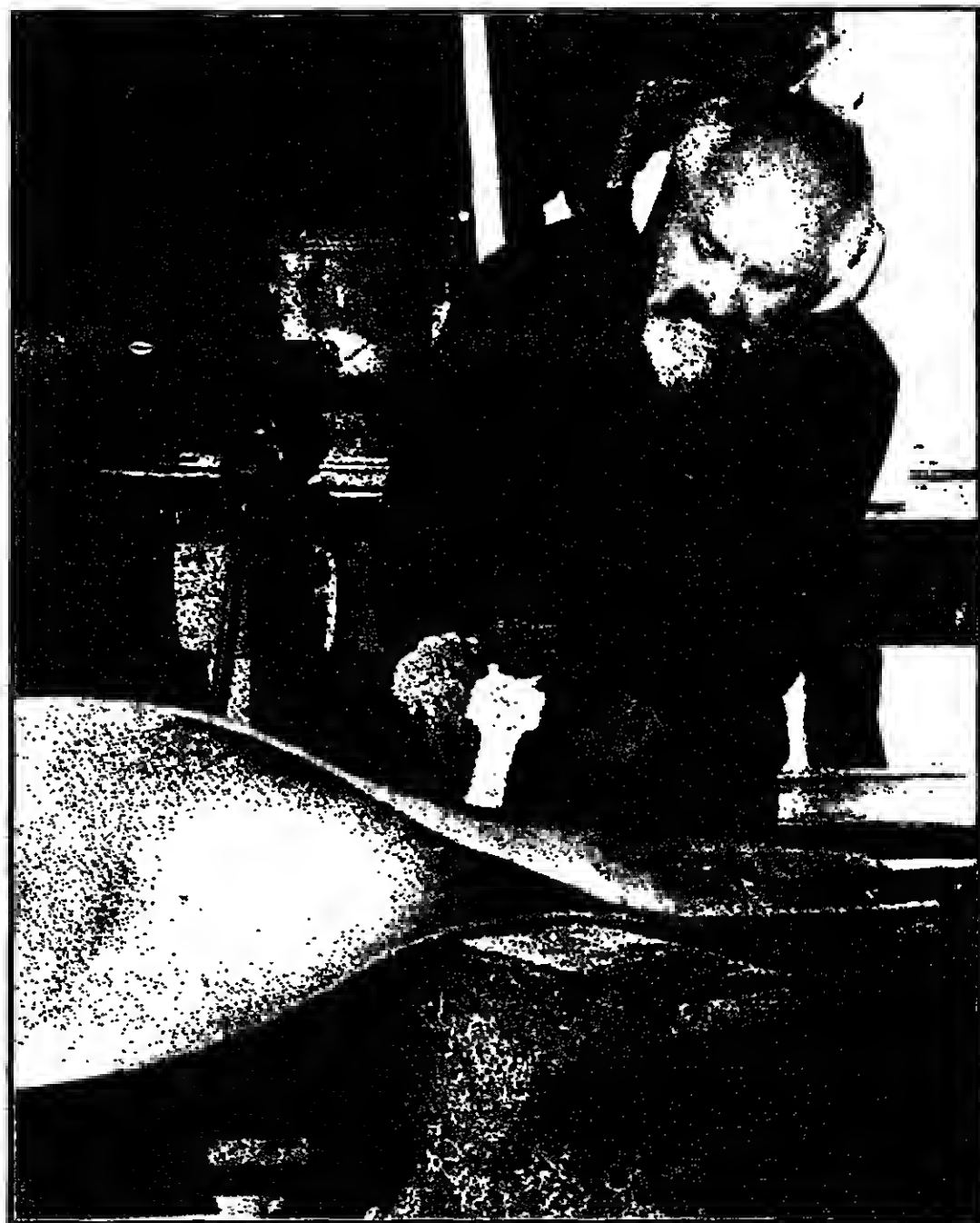
The growth in numbers has led to the formation of many local and regional groups: the Blacksmiths Guild of the Potomac, Southern Ohio Forge and Anvil, Blacksmiths of Missouri, and the like. There also has been a spurt in blacksmithing books, and courses on techniques are offered at some universities.

What's the appeal?

What is the appeal of this venerable craft? Many attending the conference echoed Whitaker, who said, "It's a turning-away from mass-produced junk, toward something creative."

Whitaker should know. At age 15, he began to study with Samuel Yellin of Philadelphia, widely acknowledged to be the greatest 20th-century smith. Yellin's workshop had as many as 200 students at one time, before the Depression destroyed the ornamental iron market.

Now Whitaker, who worked for 35 years in Carmel, Calif., before moving to Aspen in 1962, is semi-retired. He has been teaching workshops for nine years, and says quality has improved "tremendously." — National Geographic feature.



Wearing headphones to drown out the din, Antony Robinson of Great Britain shapes a super-hot piece of stainless steel into part of sculptural work. Robinson demonstrated his techniques at a conference of the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America in De Pere, Wis. (National Geographic photo)

Turkish villagers battle against power station

By Ragip Erten
Reuter

TURKEY. Turkey — Flanked by pine trees and olive groves, the beach glints like gold on Turkey's Gokova Bay and lazy Aegean waves lap the shore.

But three years from now, a 300-metre power station chimney and cooling towers will cast their shadows over the bay, midway between the Turkish resorts of Bodrum and Marmaris.

Despite the protests of local villagers and Turkish environmentalists, work has begun on a 420-megawatt power station beside this unspoiled yachting paradise to burn low-grade brown coal found in the area.

Environmentalists, in an action rare for Turkey, have protested that massive sulphur dioxide emission will kill vegetation while warm seawater emerging from the cooling towers will change the marine ecology.

The 400 villagers of Turkeyleri who will be most affected by pollution fear the roots and leaves they use to mix dyes for their colourful handmade Turkish carpets will be exterminated.

But the authorities maintain that "environmentalism is a luxury" for Turkey and that industrialisation must come first.

The conservative government of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has been unmoved by the protests from the press, academics and ordinary people, saying that Turkey needs electric power more than anything else.

The plant, named Kemerkoç, is being built by the Polish Elektrim Company to help pay Poland's debts to Turkey. The same firm built one at Yatağan, some 90 kilometres north of here, and is constructing another in Yeniköy 10 kilometres north of Turkeyleri village, which nestles in Gokova

Bay. A Polish engineer working as a consultant for the plant, who asked to remain anonymous, said the most important problem with thermal power stations was cooling.

"We encountered grave problems with the Yeniköy plant and we had to consume a lot of energy just to bring in the cooling water," he said.

"But if there was a poll for building a power plant in Gokova Bay, I would have voted no," he said. The location had been decided by the Turkish Electricity Board (TEK) without the involvement of the Polish firm, he said.

Although Gokova Bay is one of Turkey's most beautiful areas, on the Aegean Sea which separates Turkey from Greece, Tourism Minister Mukerrem Tasoglu defends construction of the power plant. "Environmentalism is a luxury for us... let us look after our industrialisation," he was quoted as saying.

The Kemerkoç plant will use brown coal, geologically younger than black coal, which will travel the four kilometres from mines inland at Husamlar by conveyor belt.

The 74 million tonnes of coal reserves at Husamlar are estimated to be enough to last 20 or 30 years, experts say.

The environmentalists, however, say the irreversible effects of pollution will be felt within 20 years.

The protesters fear sea life will be irreversibly altered by the power station.

At one point, while their menfolk were in Ankara promoting the cause, the women of the village descended on TEK technicians at the site, halting survey work and forcing them to flee

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Budd makes a comeback

ZURICH (R) — Zola Budd returns to competitive athletics in an eight km road race here on Sunday, more than four months after she was booted and jeered out of the Los Angeles Coliseum.

And the shy, South African-born 18-year-old will be determined to re-launch her promising career after her last race — the Olympic 3,000 metres final in August — ended in heartbreak.

Budd's presence in the Zurich new year's race has swelled the field. More than 10,000 people will start — 1,000 up on last year — but police say no extra security measures will be in force despite the controversy surrounding Budd's short career.

Budd was granted British citizenship in record time last April, allowing her to evade the international sporting boycott of South Africa and compete in Los Angeles.

But her golden dreams were shattered when she collided with race favourite Mary Decker in the 3,000 metres final. The American fell injured into the in-field while Budd finished seventh, running home to boos from the partisan crowd.

Budd, who shot to prominence

when she set an unofficial world best time for 5,000 metres in South Africa last January, returned home to the republic after the games to ponder her future. For a while it seemed she would quit the sport, but then accepted an invitation to run here.

Janoie Momborg, Budd's adviser, said in Johannesburg Thursday that he saw Sunday's race as a way of easing her back into competition.

"It's our hope to get her to run internationally again," he said.

"After that we will sit down and plan with her the rest of 1985." And South African-born Swiss runner Cornelia Buerki, a friend of Budd's who is also competing on Sunday, said: "We hope the race will give her back her confidence and that we'll see a new Zola Budd on the course."

Budd, who finished third in a 10 km road race in Oslo last May, will be running in the elite women's section of the race with 131 other competitors.

Buerki, who finished fifth in the Olympic 3,000 metres final, West Germans Ellen Wessinghage and Charlotte Teske and Lea van Hulst of the Netherlands should emerge as Budd's main rivals.

A field of nearly 2,200 starts 45 minutes later in the men's race.

Runners include three Olympic silver medalists from Los Angeles — Joseph Mahmoud of France (3,000 metres steeplechase), Swiss Markus Ryffel (5,000 metres) and Mike McLeod of Britain (10,000 metres).

Pierre Deleze of Switzerland, who won the race in 1982 and 1983, will be looking for a third victory to win the race organisers' cup outright.

Japanese team leaves

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Japanese Aikido team left Amman Thursday en route to a week-long visit to Jordan during which they presented two performances at Al Hussein Sport City's Palace of Culture and Yarmouk University. They also visited Petra, Jerash and the Dead Sea.

Jordan to attend Sport For All conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to take part in Sport For All conference in developing countries scheduled to be held at Hulwan University in Egypt on January 3rd. The Jordan Youth Organisation Director General Mohammad Jameel Abu Al Tayyeb will represent Jordan at the conference. Jordan will also take part in the second session meetings of the Council of Arab Youth Ministers scheduled to be held in Algiers on January 27. A Jordanian delegation, led by Mr. Abu Al Tayyeb, will attend these meetings.

West Indies record run halted

MELBOURNE (R) — West Indies' record-breaking run of 11 consecutive test cricket wins was finally ended here Thursday when a gritty century by Andrew Hilditch enabled Australia to force a draw in the fourth test.

Australia, set an improbable target of 370 on a difficult pitch on the fifth and final day, slumped to 17 for three but escaped on 198 for eight at the close after a defiant 113 by Hilditch, his maiden test

hundred.

West Indies were left 3-0 up in the five-match series after a compelling contest that ended on a note of surprise and controversy provided respectively by West Indies captain Clive Lloyd and Australian fast bowler Geoff Lawson.

Lloyd opted to continue his team's second innings for a further 24 minutes Thursday morning despite an overnight lead of 346.

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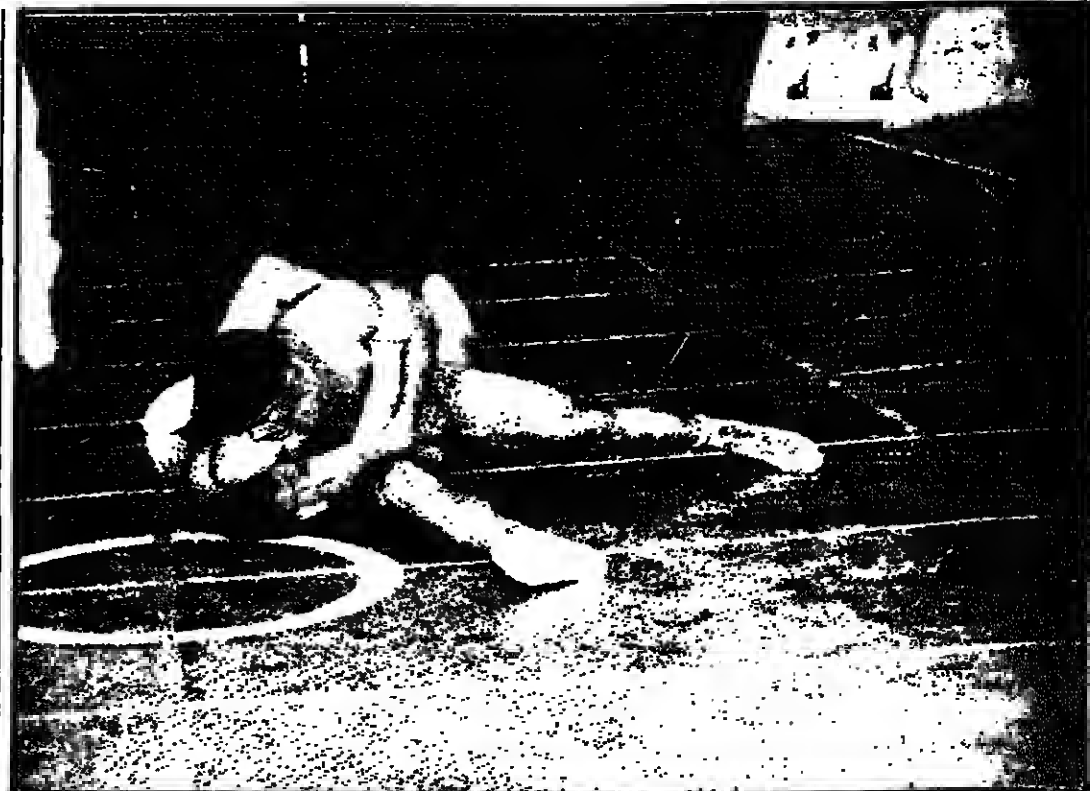
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Iraq dominates Arab wrestling

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraq dominated the second day of the Second Arab Wrestling Championship Friday with sweeping victories in all weight divisions contested.

The championship was opened Thursday by Minister of Youth Dr. Hani Al Khasawneh at Al Hussein Sport City's Sports Palace. The three-day event is held in memory of the founder of the Kingdom His Majesty King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein.

Participating in the championship are teams from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Palestine.

Friday's results: 48 kg division — Qais Subhi (Iraq) beat Abdul Al Mutaleb (Saudi Arabia), on points, Ahmad Zahran (Saudi Arabia) gained a submission from Ali Ibrahim Mohammad (Palestine), Dhafer Ibrahim (Iraq) won a submission against Ali Khalil (Jordan) in the first round.

75 kg division — Ghazi Faisal (Iraq) defeated Ali

Ghazi (Saudi Arabia) on points. 68 kg division — Salem Hassoun (Iraq) beat Munir Al Masri (Jordan) on points. 82 kg division — Abdul Wahhab Al Khalil (Jordan) defeated Saudi Arabia's Abdul Wahhab Al Khalil with a submission in the first round of the tournament.

The first bouts of the championship Thursday started with Iraq defeating Jordan by 12 in the 48 kg division. Saudi Arabia defeated Jordan in the 57 kg division while Iraq also defeated Saudi Arabia in the 57 kg division and by 12 points in the 82 kg division. Iraq also defeated Palestine in the 90 kg division and defeated Jordan in the 100 kg division.

Attending the opening ceremony on Thursday were Mayor of Amman Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, Jordan Youth Organisation Director General Mohammad Jameel Abu Al Tayyeb, Al Hussein Sport City Director Issam Aridha.

Bubka named top Soviet sportsman of '84

MOSCOW (R) — Pole vault world record holder Sergei Bubka was Friday named the Soviet Union's Sportsman of the Year in a poll of the country's top sportswriters.

Bubka, one of the top Soviet athletes kept away from the Los Angeles Olympics by Moscow's boycott, set the world record with a vault of 5.94 metres at an athletics meeting in Rome last August.

Runner-up in the poll was weightlifter Yuri Vardanyan. Hammer-thrower Yuri Sedykh came third, while Olga Mostepanova, one of the bright young hopes of Soviet gymnastics, earned the rankings to 10th place.

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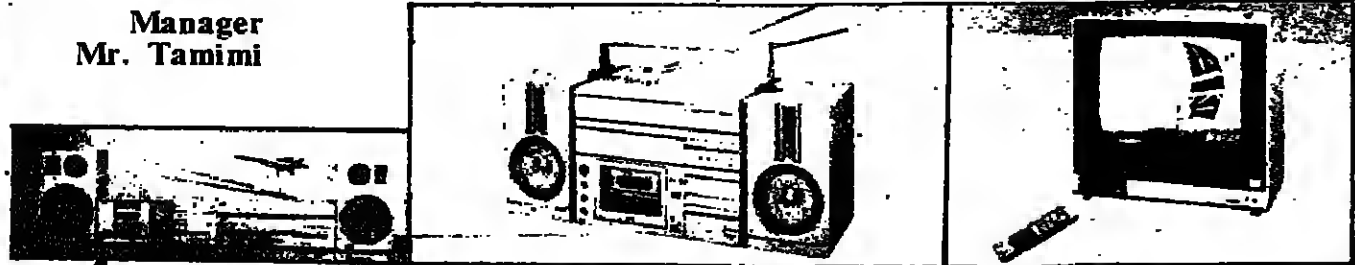
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Economy

Egypt considers new exchange rates

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian government was Thursday considering measures to try to rationalise a chaotic system of exchange rates for the Egyptian pound which it may introduce at the start of 1985, official sources said.

The pound is currently exchanged at several rates.

The basic official rate is 0.83 pounds to the dollar. An incentive rate of 1.12 pounds is available to Egyptians working abroad who remit dollars. Traders can buy dollars from banks to finance imports for 1.27 pounds. The black market quotes nearly 1.40.

Banking sources say the government is considering something like a floating exchange rate for working remittances and private importers to be set daily under central bank supervision.

A fixed rate might be maintained for some trade dealings. Remittances by 3.5 million Egyptians who live and work abroad are the chief source of hard currency to the cash-pinned economy. But with the pound officially overvalued, much of \$4.5 to \$5 billion that is remitted annually has been going through an extensive black market.

It then finds its way to private business houses needing dollars to pay for imports.

The government has been trying for months to channel more of this money through the supervised banking sector, one measure having been the introduction of the new incentive rate in April, while not formally devaluing the Egyptian currency.

A prime goal is to exercise greater control of foreign exchange allocations for imports. The government wants to divert hard cash away from luxury goods to industrial and agricultural priorities.

The April incentive rate, however, was seen by economists as only a modest reform.

Then, later this year, a judicial crackdown on the black market was begun. That provoked fear, sending the rate for "free" dollars soaring and causing an acute shortage of foreign exchange for private sector imports.

The government has shrunk from a straight devaluation, or from simply letting the pound float, which would amount to the same thing, out of concern over a possible political backlash resulting from the inevitable round of price rises.

Peking urges shift to quality, exports

PEKING (R) — Premier Zhao Ziyang has told Chinese farmers they must start producing food for export and a senior agriculture official says the country's one billion people need better food — not more.

The China Daily quoted Mr. Zhao as saying coastal regions which lead China's economic development must shift their rural production towards the needs of international markets.

He said people should no longer try to export goods which just happen to be produced. The demands of trade must be put first.

Mr. Zhao was speaking during a tour of the southern Pearl River delta region and the Yangtze delta near Shanghai.

In a separate interview, the director of the agricultural economics institute, Mr. Niu Nuofeng, told the English language daily that China would start to stress quality rather than quantity in grain output.

"We have solved the problem of producing sufficient grain to feed our people, our task now is to feed them better," he said.

China's granaries are overflowing following four successive years of record harvests. Agricultural output has soared since the state introduced incentive schemes to farmers in 1978.

But success has brought problems, notably in spiralling agricultural subsidies and difficulties in ending them.

Record harvests have already hit China's foreign trade. It has failed to fulfill a long-term grain purchase agreement with the United States and the extension of similar pacts with Canada and Australia are now in question.

"Though the (grain) surplus is not very big, we have managed to feed 22 per cent of the world's population with only seven per cent of the land," Mr. Niu said.

In another interview with the China Daily, senior agronomist Mr. Yu Yefan said the best way to improve food quality was to turn grain surpluses into animal feed to produce more meat, milk and eggs.

Scientists to investigate serious soil erosion

Meanwhile, China has launched a study to find ways of checking serious soil erosion in the north of the country and preventing floods threatening millions of lives in the lower reaches of the Yellow River.

The China Daily said Friday an investigation team of more than 200 scientists had begun work in upper areas of the river and would suggest ways of controlling erosion.

The front page report followed an announcement last week that soil erosion is a major problem affecting one tenth of the country and that a campaign to check it will be launched next year.

The official New China News Agency (NCNA) quoted a senior member of the state planning commission as saying China's entire population of one billion people would be mobilised to help with water and soil conservation measures. The official, Mr. Zhang Youshi, said several billion tonnes of top soil were washed away into rivers every year, hitting agriculture and causing lakes and the lower reaches of rivers to silt up.

Western diplomats said the remarks show a gradual recognition by the Chinese government that it has a major environmental and pollution problem on its hands as it seeks to modernise the world's most populous country.

Smoke and chemical effluent belch out of factories across the country, rivers are polluted and officials admit that soil erosion now affects over one million square kilometres. They say combating the problem is as important as population control programme.

Soil erosion has become a major problem due to deforestation by peasants over the past few decades.

It was made more acute by the policy of the late chairman Mao Tse-tung to use all available land for growing grain — with the result that orchards were uprooted and land that was not suitable for grain soon became a dust bowl.

During the 1966-76 cultural revolution Maoist Red Guards dug up grass in major cities as part of a campaign to eradicate insects.

The government launched a big tree-planting campaign four years ago to double the area planted with trees by the turn of the century.

Chinese officials say they are creating a new "green wall of China" to protect cities against spring dust storms and help stop soil erosion.

Algeria plans 1m new jobs, to invest \$107b

PARIS (R) — Algeria's five-year plan for 1985-89 foresees a million new jobs and investment of 550 billion dinars (\$107 billion). Planning Minister Ali Oubouzar has said. The new jobs should keep pace with a 3.2 per cent annual population growth rate, the Algerian News Agency APS quoted him as saying. The plan gives priority to developing agriculture and water resources with nearly 15 per cent of total investment to boost food production. Mr. Oubouzar said Algeria imported 30 per cent of its food, including 60 per cent of its cereals. The plan foresees seven per cent annual growth in the economy, without taking into account the oil sector, with investments growing seven per cent a year and consumption five per cent, he said.

Finance Minister Boualem Benhamouda said resources from the sale of oil products were entirely devoted to investment this year, amounting to more than 46 billion dinars (\$9 billion) against 41.2 billion dinars (\$8 billion) in 1983.

Paris blocks proposed steel talks with U.S.

BRUSSELS (R) — France rejected European Commission plans Friday for talks with Washington on U.S. steel pipe import curbs, calling instead for a meeting of Community ministers to define a joint position, diplomats said.

They said Paris had told the other nine Community members in a letter that it would not accept a U.S. ceiling on European sales of pipes and tubes to 7.6 per cent of the U.S. market in 1985 and 1986 without further talks within the Community.

Irish diplomats said Dublin would decide Saturday whether to call a meeting of the group's industry ministers before it hands over the Community presidency to Italy on Dec. 31.

Diplomats said France wanted firm assurances that sales by the French firm Vallourec be exempted from the proposed ceiling.

Vallourec is a major subcontractor of oil pipeline equipment and Paris has argued that curbing previously negotiated supplies would be in breach of contracts.

France's rejection, combined with last week's Greek and Italian refusals of Washington's offer, has created a blocking minority among the 10, preventing the group's executive commission from negotiating a deal, diplomats said.

European pipe and tube sales took 14.6 per cent of the U.S. market this year, totalling 1.1 million tonnes in the first nine months of 1984 against 475,000 tonnes in the whole of 1983.

The U.S. government, responding to domestic industry pressure, last month barred all Community steel pipe and tube imports for the rest of 1984 and said it would restrict European sales to 5.9 per cent of the U.S. market in 1985 and 1986.

Threats of trade reprisals against vital U.S. agricultural exports led to talks between the two sides which produced a draft compromise market share figure of 7.6 per cent, close to an offer made earlier by the 10 but rejected by Washington.

However, differences remain over products to be exempted from the restrictions, with the U.S. offering a single break for pipes and tubes in short supply which cannot be provided by its domestic industries.

Turkish Cypriot parliament approves \$94.9 million budget

NICOSIA (R) — The Turkish Cypriot parliament Friday night approved a 1985 budget of 40.8 billion lira (\$94.9 million), of which nearly a third comes from Turkey.

Funds from Turkey, the only country to recognise the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, are budgeted at 12.8 billion lira (\$29.8 million), according to a draft of the budget debated by the chamber.

Planned spending totals 40.9 billion lira (\$95.1 million), including 2.8 billion (\$6.5 million) on defence.

OPEC ministers agree on scheme to monitor oil price, production

GENEVA (R) — OPEC oil ministers agreed Friday to set up a supra-national monitoring body to keep watch on the oil industries of all 13 member states.

"We have reached a unanimous decision on the formation of a body to audit the performance of the member countries on pricing and production," conference chairman Dr. Subroto of Indonesia told reporters after the morning session.

The oil producers' organisation, its unity threatened by covert overproduction and price-cutting which most indulge in but none admits, has devised the policing scheme as the surest way to restore its own credibility and lift sagging world oil prices.

"We feel that there should be teeth in this resolution," Dr. Subroto said, describing the scheme as a temporary expedient. He added that enforcement measures remained to be worked out in detail and would be announced shortly.

The agreement was reached at the second session of an OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) conference begun before Christmas and resumed Thursday, despite some members' earlier reservations over the possible threat to their national sovereignty.

Several OPEC states, notably Nigeria, had indicated that any monitoring deal should be linked to price differentials — adjustments for the differing grades of crude oil.

But Dr. Subroto said Nigeria now supported the scheme "without any reservations."

Nigerian Oil Minister Tam David-West said Nigeria would propose a rise in OPEC heavy crude prices of \$1 to \$1.5 per barrel and unchanged light prices to solve the differentials issue.

Asked if this stand was linked to Nigeria's acceptance of proposals for the monitoring scheme, Prof. David-West said "in a way, yes." He did not elaborate.

The differentials, which at present heavily favour producers of cheaper low quality crudes, will be discussed at later sessions.

OPEC's marker crude is pegged at \$29 a barrel, but lighter grades sell officially for up to \$30.50 heavier crudes from \$26 a barrel.

Prices on the free or spot market, however, have rarely exceeded \$28 since mid-year and Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), both producers of light crudes, have led demands

that the OPEC price structure be brought closer to market realities.

"We still need a differential adjustment because some countries, for instance the UAE, cannot sell their quota at the official price," said one conference source.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah said negotiations on the issue would probably continue into Saturday, but he expressed optimism that it would be resolved.

Oil traders observing the conference were divided over the likely effect of Friday's agreement.

"I don't expect the market to do anything on the strength of this meeting," said one.

OPEC now accounts for only 35 per cent of the non-communist world's oil and its lighter grades, notably those of Nigeria, are challenged by the North Sea producers, Britain and Norway, which have said they are ready to link their prices to free market rates.

"I think the market is going to wait to see what BNOOC (the British National Oil Corporation) does with January prices and what Nigeria does as a consequence," said an oil broker here.

But others said they expected OPEC's monitoring pact to revive oil prices, if only temporarily.

One broker said the scheme would have to last three to six months to have a significant effect on the market.

Meanwhile, Malaysia will cut its oil production by 40,000 barrels per day (b/d) next year as a mark of solidarity with OPEC, Finance Minister Daim Zaiduddin announced Thursday.

Malaysia, which is not an OPEC member, currently produces about 440,000 b/d and had planned to boost output to 450,000 b/d in 1985.

Riyadh devalues riyal against dollar

BAHRAIN (R) — The Saudi Arabian riyal was devalued Thursday from 3.56 to 3.58 to the U.S. dollar, dealers in the Gulf said.

They said they had received the new parity rate by telex from the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) Thursday morning.

The riyal was last devalued on Sept. 18, from 3.54 to the dollar. Dealers said a devaluation had been expected before the new year in response to the strength of the dollar on international markets and an increase in liquidity in Saudi Arabia.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed firm, but trading was quiet ahead of the New Year holiday next week. The FTSE 100 index at 1530 GMT rose 13.9 to a new high of 1234.8.

Some light institutional buying interest helped underpin prices in a market already short of stock, dealers said. Thom EMI jumped 20p to 467 following a broker's buy recommendation while ICI returned to 735 after 732, BTR gained 12p to 606 and British Telecom added 1 1/2p to 103 1/2 ahead of interim figures next month.

Government bonds showed losses of up to 1/4 point in lacklustre trading. Golds were mixed and North American firms.

Oils saw B.P. up 12p to 488 and Shell 7p higher at 643 in technical reaction after their recent downward trend and also helped by the informal agreement by OPEC members in the monitoring of production and pricing, dealers said.

In breweries, Matthew Brown jumped 28p to 310 on bid speculation despite a denial from the company of any takeover. Scottish and Newcastle, rumoured as a likely candidate, was unchanged at 132 1/2. Guinness added 12p to 232 following last week's acquisition of Neighbourhood Stores.

Jaguar gained 12p to 254 on the strength of the dollar and planned production increases.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.1645/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3200/05	Canadian dollars
	3.1375/1415	West German marks
	3.5425/5225	Dutch guilders
	2.5825/75	Swiss francs
	62.92/63.02	Belgian francs
	9.6050/6150	French francs
	1926.0/31.0	Italian lire
	250.10/25	Japanese yen
	8.9575/9775	Swedish crowns
	9.0600/0800	Norwegian crowns
	11.2250/2450	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	309.25/309.75	U.S. dollars

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 29, 1984

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The day is good for getting rid of whatever unfinished tasks face you in a calm and unperturbed fashion or you can get irritable and annoyed. Put your plans into motion.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Forget those secret anxieties and go ahead with plans you have in mind but don't confide in others.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): Quietly handle whatever tasks are ahead of you and get much done during the daytime and handle restrictions wisely.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Get activities handled well but don't be so concerned about getting credit right now, be it in business or personal affairs.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21): Some new condition seems hard to handle or understand during the daytime and tonight an expert is not helpful.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): Don't relegate tasks to others but handle them yourself, and be reasonable about a bill you think is too big.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Although an associate may not seem to be living up to an agreement, don't raise Cain but be sure to handle your part.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Organize that work ahead of you and don't expect assistance from others and you can handle it very well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Try not to argue when you are out with another for a good time, otherwise it will spoil the fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Gab about doing shopping, paying visits, etc., during the daytime, but tonight is best spent at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Handling outside duties is important today, but use extreme care while driving. Smile and be cheerful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): Steer clear of borrowing or buying anything that will require steady payments to be made. Stay within your budget.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Hide any discontent you may feel or you could lose a valuable friend, and do whatever will improve your health and appearance.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she has to be organized to solve problems as not to get nervous with others around. Slant education along lines of investigation and your progeny will be very successful at such. Teach to be more objective throughout the lifetime. Possibly an impatient person here.

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitliff

ACROSS

1. Jabbers
2. Oasis
3. Necktie
4. Me Adams
5. Long trip
6. Ms Bernhardt
7. Ms Albright
8. Against
9. Dentine
10. Teutonic language
11. Misplace
12. Auction ending
13. — sequitur
14. Western college monogram
15. — Aiv
16. June bug
17. Pulpit
18. Doltishness
19. Australian song
20. Paintfaking
21. Unskilled laborer
22. Haunt
23. Help
24. Mrs. in Lisbon
25. Acad. or coll.
26. Ragged
27. Container
28. Shortfall
29. Scat. dance
30. Kegler's mark
31. "— a dream"
32. Heb. month
33. Concur
34. Misplace
35. Scant
36. Alan and Cheryl
37. "— of the"
38. Locust
39. Helper. abbr.

DOWN

1. Barks
2. Worship
3. Steer
4. Asian org.
5. Puts on a show
6. Sound
7. Exaggerated
8. Evening hours
9. To come
10. "It's — to tell a lie"
11. Eurasian juniper
12. Nite denizen
13. Paddle
14. "— kingdom come"
15. Big Ten coll.
16. Sphere of conflict
17. Ignited
18. Tatum's dad
19. Filled with wonder
20. Man
21. Felix "Doc" —
22. NYC initials
23. NCO
24. Tuck's partner
25. Colonies of Peru
26. Peruvian animal
27. Steering item
28. Mr. London
29. Wading bird
30. Turns to the right
31. Space agency
32. Mine or Maglie
33. Goller's grp.

Yesterday's Jumbles: LEAKY ERASE INVITE FACILE
Answer: What too much of an open mind might be like — A SIEVE

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

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"We tightened all of our belts and bit all of our bullets. Now what?"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PERPI

LEEXI

KAUMPE

PREMAT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LEAKY ERASE INVITE FACILE
Answer: What too much of an open mind might be like — A SIEVE

Peanuts

YES, MA'AM, I'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO PLAY THE PART OF MARY IN OUR CHRISTMAS PLAY...

YOU WHAT?

THAT'S RIGHT, SIR... SHE ASKED ME YESTERDAY

MARY NEVER WORE GLASSES!!

Mutt 'n' Jeff

A MERRY CHRISTMAS, MUTT! HERE'S YOUR NICEST PRESENT...

IT TOOK ME WEEKS TO FIND IT!

OH, I'LL BE RIGHT IN TO LOOK AT IT, M'LOVE!

WAIT A MINUTE, I'LL PUT IT ON!

Andy Capp

OH, WELL, OPENING TIME — I'D BETTER GET CRACKING

HIVIA, TOM, HOW'S IT GOING?

I'M SHATTERED ANDY, I'VE BEEN WORKING SO MUCH OVERTIME LATELY

FANCY COMING DOWN FOR A QUICK ONE?

I DON'T THINK SO, ANDY, I CAN'T BE BOTHERED

CAN'T BE BOTHERED? LAZY DEVIL

Vietnamese attack rebel camp in Kampuchea

AMPIL, Kampuchea (R) — Vietnamese troops pounded the command headquarters of Kampuchean guerrillas with artillery shells and mortar bombs Friday and defenders said the barrage was a prelude to a major ground attack.

Up to 30 shells and bombs crashed into the Khmer Peoples National Liberation Force (KPNLF) base before dawn Friday morning but guerrilla leaders said there were no casualties.

The sprawling base, a few hundred metres across the border from Thailand and normally bustling with people, looked like a ghost town.

Most of its 23,000 civilians huddled at the rear of the camp, ready for a quick escape across an anti-tank ditch forming the border with Thailand. Some hid under ox-carts, others crouched in shallow bunkers.

Six KPNLF bases along the western Kampuchean border have been attacked or overrun since Vietnamese troops began their dry-season offensive against guerrillas last month. Ampil is the only major camp still intact.

Fighting was still going on Friday at Nong Samet Base, 25 kilometres away, most of which fell three days ago to Vietnamese troops backed by T-54 Soviet tanks.

Some guerrillas sent to defend Ampil from the Nong Samet area said a see-saw battle was still raging with the KPNLF nibbling away at parts of the camp controlled by the Vietnamese.

Thai military officers on their side of the border opposite Nong Samet reported hearing the crackle of automatic fire. They said black smoke billowed from the camp as the Vietnamese burnt guerrilla structures and fortifications.

More than 100,000 Kampuchean civilians have fled into Thailand since the latest Vietnamese lunge against the border

camps began. Western diplomats said if Ampil fell it would be a big psychological boost for Hanoi's troops in their six-year war against the guerrillas.

International relief workers described this year's dry-season thrust as the most ferocious. They said Hanoi seemed determined to crush the KPNLF to isolate the Communist Khmer Rouge, another guerrilla group operating mostly in the interior of Kampuchea.

A KPNLF spokesman in Bangkok said since the Vietnamese push began, about 70 guerrillas and civilians had been killed and 200 wounded.

The spokesman said the situation at Nong Samet was confused but guerrilla forces holding outlying parts of the camp appeared to be expanding their areas of control.

He said reinforcements had been moved in from deeper inside Kampuchea to hit the Vietnamese from the rear.

Thai military officers said the Vietnamese had burned down most of the camp and appeared to be preparing to withdraw — apparently a normal practice by Hanoi to avoid becoming bogged down in areas far from supply lines.

Nong Chang, the first KPNLF base to fall on Nov. 18 was recaptured by the guerrillas on Dec. 5. But fighting around the area lasted until Christmas Day.

The spokesman said KPNLF casualties in the fighting at Nong Chang as 55 killed and 177 wounded. He said guerrillas reported seeing 11 truckloads of Vietnamese bodies being evacuated.

Preliminary reports from Nong Samet put KPNLF casualties at 10 dead and 14 wounded while 23 Vietnamese troops were killed, he said.

The spokesman said the fringes of Ampil had come under sporadic shelling over the past few days and a ground attack was imminent. Some of the shells contained propaganda leaflets urging the guerrillas to desert.

Reuter correspondent Joseph de Rienzo visited the camp Thursday and reported that most of its 23,000 civilian inhabitants had been moved near a tank ditch which forms the border with Thailand for a quick escape.

KPNLF Military Commander General Dien Del told Reuters: "If the Vietnamese are determined to take Ampil it will be a cruel and bloody fight. I should not like to be on the battlefield on that day."

China denounces attack

China Friday condemned what it called Vietnam's "criminal action" in attacking the Kampuchean guerrilla base near the Thai border and driving thousands of civilians into Thailand.

A statement by the Foreign Ministry in Peking said China's first comment about Vietnam's assault on the largest camp of the Chinese-backed KPNLF.

"The Vietnamese troops recently kept attacking the camp of the anti-Vietnamese patriotic armed forces, bringing great losses of property and lives to the Kampuchean people and turning a legion of local residents into refugees," the Foreign Ministry statement said.

"The Chinese government firmly condemns this criminal action and demands the Vietnamese authorities immediately stop invading Kampuchea and slaughtering the innocent people there," the statement said.



PEACE FIESTA: Greek and Turkish Cypriots socialise at a gathering that was hailed as a historic occasion.

Singapore pulls out of UNESCO

SINGAPORE (R) — In a surprise move Singapore has withdrawn from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the first Third World nation to do so, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

The island state, one of the richest among developing nations, might also consider pulling out of

other international organisations which had little relevance to it, the spokesman told Reuters. He did not name the organisations.

The spokesman, who refused to be identified, made clear that Singapore's move to quit UNESCO was based on financial reasons and not prompted by an impending U.S. exit from the organisation at the end of this year.

Washington announced it would quit last December, expressing several areas of dissatisfaction, including what it described as inefficient management of UNESCO funds and resources.

Singapore had given the required one year's notice and its membership will end in December 1985, the spokesman said.

Chile expels American priest after torture protest

SANTIAGO (R) — Chile's military government has expelled an American Roman Catholic priest arrested while handing out Christmas cards with an anti-torture message after mass last Sunday, witnesses said.

A crowd of 100 at Santiago Airport, among them about 20 priests, caught a glimpse of 48-year-old, Dennis O'Mara Thursday night as he was hurried by police through passport control to board an Aeroperu plane for Miami.

Fr. O'Mara, who comes from Chicago but has lived in Chile for six years, said in a farewell letter read to the crowd: "I can't believe that I am leaving and it hurts to leave without saying goodbye to you."

The letter was read by another priest, Luis Connaughton, head of the Columbian Order in Chile to which Fr. O'Mara belongs.

"Do not be angry," said Fr. O'Mara. "My commitment to truth and to life demanded of me a commitment against torture, whatever the consequences."

"The expulsion decree signed by (Interior Minister Sergio) Jarpa says that Dennis O'Mara is a person who represents a danger

for the country's internal peace," he added.

Fr. O'Mara is the second foreign priest to be expelled from Chile on charges of indulging in political activity since President Augusto Pinochet ordered a crackdown on political unrest two months ago.

The first, Spanish Jesuit Ignacio Gutierrez, was the head of the Archbishop of Santiago's human rights group and was barred from returning to Chile from a foreign trip.

His expulsion, mass arrests and strict controls on all media under the crackdown, have heightened tension between the government and the church, especially after criticisms by Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno were censored.

Fr. O'Mara, who worked with alcoholics in poor working-class districts of Pudahuel in eastern Santiago, was one of many foreign priests who arrived in Chile after the 1973 military coup against the late Socialist President Salvador Allende.

Two of his colleagues from Pudahuel were among three foreign priests expelled by Gen. Pinochet in March last year, again for alleged political activities.

Comet experiment could improve weather forecasts

WASHINGTON (R) — Scientists sent an artificial comet streaking over the South Pacific and said the 15-minute firework show could lead to more accurate weather forecasts.

A West German satellite, tracked by U.S. and British satellites, Thursday released a cloud of barium gas into space more than 112,000 kilometres above the Pacific Ocean west of Peru.

The result was comet with a 7,500-mile long tail. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said the barium cloud collided with solar winds — charged particles from the sun — to create the first man-made comet.

A scientist with the three-nation project told ABC Television that data gathered by NASA computers during the operation could help improve weather forecasting.

"If our experiments are successful... then it may be possible to really have established this cause and effect relationship and have better weather predictions in the longer term," American sci-

entist Tom Krimigis said. NASA officials said the experiment could help explain how solar winds affect weather and communications on earth.

They said the experiment, to study the interaction of solar winds with the earth's magnetic field, was also monitored by two aircraft equipped with special instruments.

Ground observation points in New Mexico, California and Hawaii gathered data from the experiment, originally planned for Christmas Day but postponed for two days because of bad weather.

West German scientist Gerhard Haerndel, said the information gathered by NASA's computers would help unlock the secrets of how comets are formed.

The United States, Britain and West Germany each launched a satellite in August from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida as part of the active magnetospheric particle trace explorers project, as the experiment was officially known.

Japanese customs halts export of sonar to USSR

TOKYO (R) — Japanese customs officials have blocked shipment to the Soviet Union of a sophisticated U.S.-made underwater tracking system, a Foreign Ministry official said Friday.

Osaka customs stopped the system leaving Japan on suspicion that it was on a list of high-technology products banned from export to Communist countries by the 15-member Coordinating Committee for Export Control (Coccom), the official told Reuters.

The U.S. government had told the Foreign Ministry to be on the look out for an attempt to export the tracking system, he said, adding: "It is almost certainly subject to Coccom restrictions."

Japanese authorities were still looking into the exact nature of the sonar equipment and the export route.

The daily Sankei Shinbun said

Thursday the system was capable of surveying 12,000 metres under water and could track the movement of nuclear submarines.

Coccom, made up of leading non-Communist industrial countries, bans exports to Communist countries of high tech products with possible military applications.

In Washington, the Washington Post said Friday the U.S. customs service had been investigating the matter for some time. It said the shipment was reported to have been seized in late October.

The Reagan administration has tightened controls in recent months over the shipment of American technology to Soviet bloc nations after reports of an increase in the illegal sale of sensitive computer and electronic equipment to Eastern Europe.

Italians outraged over failure to catch bombers

ROME (R) — Italian politicians have voiced their outrage that previous acts of terrorism had gone unpunished as victims of a pre-Christmas train bombing were buried.

Speaking at a funeral ceremony Thursday in Bologna, the city's Communist Mayor Renzo Imbeni said the atrocities, which have been widely blamed on right-wing extremists, continued "because this terrorism by massacre goes unpunished."

He said no-one had been caught for a series of bombings which killed 140 people in northern Italy over the past 15 years "because there was complicity and protection within the state apparatus."

Fifteen people died when a bomb wrecked an express train in a rail tunnel between Florence and Bologna last Sunday evening.

Prime Minister Bettino Craxi told the Senate (upper house) in Rome Thursday night that inquiries into previous bombings had been "a bitter series of failures" and admitted there had been "interference and collusion" from within state bodies.

But he promised that in future there would be "no wavering, deviation or any secrecy."

Mr. Imbeni's hard-hitting remarks drew criticism from Mr. Craxi's Socialist Party, which ac-

used the mayor of trying to score political points.

Mr. Craxi in turn was criticised by opposition Communists. Senator Ugo Pecchioli charged that the premier had failed to explain why right-wing terrorists got away with it.

The Communists tabled a demand for a parliamentary inquiry into the latest massacre.

Relatives of the victims took their coffins away for private burial instead of taking part in the state funeral service. In what Italian newspapers said was a protest against the government's failure to put a stop to terrorism.

Interior Minister Oscar Luigi Scalfaro told the Chamber of Deputies (lower house) Thursday night that so far there had been 23 claims of responsibility for last Sunday's bombing from anonymous callers purporting to represent at least 12 groups.

The groups ranged from the right-wing neo order and the left-wing Red Brigades to the "Islamic Warriors", the mafia and a hitherto unknown organisation from the largely German-speaking South Tyrol region of Italy.

Both Mr. Craxi and Mr. Scalfaro said it would be wrong to make hasty assumptions about what sort of group was responsible.

Column 8

Baby dies after birth to dead mother

CORK, Ireland (R) — A baby born to a mother declared clinically dead has died after 10 days, hospital sources said. Doctors said the baby, two months premature and born spontaneously without surgical help, died on Wednesday. The mother was kept alive for days on a life-support machine in hospital in Cork after suffering a brain haemorrhage. Last year, a woman on a life-support machine gave birth to a son in California after she had been declared legally dead.

Harvard student sues Yale for \$50m

BRIDGEPORT, Connecticut (R) — A Harvard University student who suffered severe head injuries when struck by a falling goal post after a Yale-Harvard football game last year has filed a \$50-million negligence suit. The suit, filed in federal court here, names as defendants Yale University, the Ogdens Security Company of New Haven and 60 members of the New Haven Police Department. Harvard University student Margaret Cimino, 20, was critically injured when she was hit by the goal post after it was toppled by Harvard students following a victory over Yale at the Yale Bowl. The suit contends that the defendants failed to provide adequate protection on the field after the game and that Ms. Cimino suffered permanent damage as a result of the incident.

Divorce battle centres over a horse

LOS ANGELES (R) — Larry the tug-of-love horse is being pulled both ways in a divorce battle between a 74-year-old cowboy and his wife. Film star and rodeo rider Montie Montana and his wife Eleanor have both claimed custody of Larry, a 12-year-old black and white pinto gelding. "I feel Larry is mine," the 65-year-old wife told reporters between sobs. "He gave him to me just like he gave me my wedding ring. Does he want that back, too?" Larry is just like a kid to me," said Montana, wearing cowboy clothes and white stetson. "He's kind and lovable — just like my wife used to be." Lawyers say Larry will be communal property on the couple's ranch until the divorce settlement.

Test tube triplets born in U.S.

STANFORD, California (R) — Triplets have been born here to parents using the so-called test tube method of fertilisation, a spokeswoman at Stanford University Medical Centre said. Two boys and a girl — seven weeks premature but in good health — were born to 36-year-old Carol Day from nearby San Jose. She and husband, Dennis, aged 53, resorted to the vitro method, whereby an egg is fertilised outside the mother's body and then re-implanted, because she was unable to conceive naturally.

Killer dies in electric chair wired by father

ANGOLA, Louisiana (R) — Robert Lee Willie was executed early Friday for the 1980 murder of a teenage girl — in an electric chair wired by his father, John Willie, when he was an inmate in the same Angola jail in 1982. The younger Willie was pronounced dead at 1.15 a.m., the sixth person to be executed in Louisiana since the U.S. supreme court allowed states to resume executions in 1976. Willie, 26, was convicted of the rape, torture and murder of Faith Hathaway, 18. An accomplice, Joseph Jesse Vaccaro, was also convicted of the killing but was sentenced to life in prison. John Willie, who spent 27 of his 53 years in jail for manslaughter, cattle theft and aggravated battery, told reporters his son deserved to die. Willie's grandfather, Kelton Willie, a former deputy sheriff, agreed, saying: "It's like her life was precious to her, and he took it. They ought to take his life." Hathaway's mother and her stepfather, Vernon Harvey, were present at the execution at the Angola State Penitentiary. Harvey said he would be happy to "see the smoke fly off his body and... know he's dead. It'll be like somebody took a great big heavy load off my back." A few days before the execution, Willie told a reporter: "electric chair don't worry me, man. I have a lot of pride. I don't run from nothing."

Women, babies saved from Indian hospital fire

NEW DELHI (R) — More than 300 women and newborn babies were saved in a dramatic evacuation when fire raged through a New Delhi hospital Thursday, officials said.

Firemen scaled ladders to the first three floors of the maternity block at Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Hospital, broke the windows and carried patients to safety.

One woman jumped from the first floor and was slightly injured before the fire was brought under control after two hours, police

said. There were no other casualties.

Delhi's Chief Executive Councillor Jag Praveesh said about 70 babies were rescued. Several women were in the labour room when the fire broke out. He said the hospital, one of Delhi's biggest, had only one or two fire extinguishers.

The blaze was apparently started by a short circuit or leaking petrol in the basement, where combustible chemicals were stored, he added.

Chinese ideologist sets record straight

PEKING (R) — China, worried by recent Western suggestions that it is dumping Marxism, put forward one of its leading ideologists Friday to set the record straight.

Karl Marx's basic principles still underpin Chinese theory but fail to provide practical answers to some major economic problems, Yu Guang Yuan told foreign reporters.

Chinese thinkers and policymakers, armed with Marx's system of thought, have now created the solutions, he said.

Some of his theories are "far from enough in the issue of Socialist (economic) construction," said Mr. Yu, a senior member of many Communist Party and academic bodies.

The 19th Century German philosopher was a great revolutionary but was much weaker when it came to advice on how to rebuild a Socialist economy, he said.

It was impossible to find in his works a clear idea on practical planning, which was crucial to the smooth development of the Chinese economy. "The theory of planning has been something left for us to invent and create," Mr. Yu said.

The controversy erupted earlier this month when a front-page report in the People's Daily said classical Marxist ideas could not solve China's present problems.

The Communist Party paper followed with a quick correction the next day stressing that the sentence should have read that Marx's theories could not solve "all" China's problems.

But it was too late to stop a flurry of Western press speculation, fuelled by the current strong trend in China to apply practical rather than ideological solutions to economic problems.

Albarran continued with the king and ace of spades. He discarded a club from dummy as East ruffed. East shifted to a club. Declarer rose with the ace and led his eight of spades. West covered with the 10 but, instead of ruffing, declarer discarded dummy's last club.

His objective had been achieved — he had transferred his ruff from spades to clubs. West completed the defensive book by cashing the ace of diamonds, but declarer ruffed the diamond continuation, ruffed his club in dummy and then successfully finessed the jack of hearts. When that held, the rest of the tricks were there for the taking.

Speaking on the fifth anniversary of the Soviet intervention

in Afghanistan, Mr. Armacost said he believed "time is not necessarily on the Soviets side."

President Reagan Thursday accused Moscow of infamous behaviour and said "there is no legitimate excuse" for its intervention in the Asian nation.

But Afghanistan's ambassador to the United Nations, also interviewed on ABC's Nightline News Programme, denied his country had been invaded by the Soviet Union.

Farid Zarf said the Soviet Union had been invited into Afghanistan five years ago to help the Afghan government "repel a foreign aggression."

Mr. Zarf did not identify the foreign aggressor, but said the Soviet forces would leave Afg-

hanistan "as soon as this aggression stops." Moscow has condemned the United States for aiding Afghan rebels fighting the pro-Soviet government of Babrak Karmal.

The Reagan administration does not publicly admit it is aiding anti-Soviet Afghan guerrillas but Congress reportedly has approved more than \$300 million in aid since the 1979 invasion.

Mr. Armacost refused to comment on reports that Pakistan, Afghanistan's southern neighbour which shelters some three million Afghan refugees, was diverting weapons destined for the guerrillas for fear of Soviet retaliation.

In Los Angeles, Thursday three hundred people, chanting "Death to Russia," burned five Soviet flags outside Los Angeles City Hall to mark the fifth anniversary of Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

A member of the governing Los Angeles board of supervisors, Michael Antonovich, told the demonstrators: "Let's get tough with business people who profit by trading with the Russians and remind them freedom comes before profits."

The demonstration was sponsored by a group called the Afghanistan Freedom Alliance.

Soviet troops entered their sixth year of combat against Muslim rebels in Afghanistan Thursday with Western governments renewing their denunciations of Moscow's intervention.

The United States, Britain, France and Japan have all marked the anniversary with statements urging Soviet withdrawal.

Afghan exiles and Muslim activists sympathetic to their cause held anti-Soviet demonstrations in West Germany, Austria, India and Thailand.

In Moscow, the official Communist Party newspaper Pravda noted the day as the 20th birthday of the Afghan Communist Party but did not mention the anniversary of the intervention.

The Soviet Youth daily Kommolskaya Pravda devoted a page to reports on Soviet soldiers serving in Afghanistan but did not mention Thursday's anniversary.

Soviet forces moved into Afghanistan on Dec. 27, 1979, sim-

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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READ YOUR OPPONENTS

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for these hands that we consider to be our favorites, that makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column. Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 65
♥ 983
♦ Q9842
♣ Q103

WEST EAST
♠ Q10743 ♠ 92
♥ 2 ♥ K104
♦ A105 ♦ K176
♣ KJ54 ♣ 9876

SOUTH
♠ AKJ5
♥ AQJ765
♦ 3
♣ A2

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ 1♠ Pass Pass
4♥ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♠.

These days, most major team tournaments are played with a screen diagonally across the table. As a result, each player can see only one opponent — his partner and the other opponent are hidden behind the screen. This is done to eliminate the "intangibles" from the game, and one day the ultimate will be reached — each player will be in a separate room operating an electronic control board to make his bids and plays. It will be nearly impossible to cheat in any way, and an important element of the game will have been removed in the process — the ability to "read" your opponents.

One of the finest examples of table presence that we know of is this one from a rubber bridge game by the late, great Pierre Albarran of France. His four hearts was a two-way bid — he expected to have a play for it, and there was always the chance the opponents would venture a sacrifice.

West led a spade and Albarran won the jack. The normal line would be to strive for a spade ruff in dummy. That would succeed if West held the 10 of hearts or the singleton king, or if East held K-10 doubleton. In that case declarer would hold his losers to a trump, a diamond and a club.

However, when dummy came down, East inspected it rather carefully and then sat back in a contented fashion. Albarran sensed East's complacency, so he decided East could overruff dummy twice. Reading the situation was only half the problem — South had to find a way to make use of the information.

Albarran continued with the king and ace of spades. He discarded a club from dummy as East ruffed. East shifted to a club. Declarer rose with the ace and led his eight of spades. West covered with the 10 but, instead of ruffing, declarer discarded dummy's last club.

His objective had been achieved — he had transferred his ruff from spades to clubs. West completed the defensive book by cashing the ace of diamonds, but declarer ruffed the diamond continuation, ruffed his club in dummy and then successfully finessed the jack of hearts. When that held, the rest of the tricks were there for the taking.